FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

31 AUGUST 1983

Lebanon

Security Situation — After further fighting with gunmen in Beirut throughout 30 August, the Lebanese Army advanced along various axes into the western sector on 31 August in an attempt to restore order, Beirut radio reported. The shelling of Greater Beirut continued despite Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri's reported agreement to withdraw all gunmen from the streets and cooperate with the Lebanese Army, according to the radio. Birri subsequently dissociated himself from the shelling, asserting in a statement broadcast by the radio that it was obstructing further accord and calling on "brother activists and the national forces" to abide by the cease-fire. Meanwhile, Phalangist forces responded to the "Syrian and socialist" shelling, which centered on Lebanese Army positions and Christian residential areas, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. Over 3,000 shells fell on the city and nearby areas on 30-31 August, according to military sources cited by the radio.

U.S. Marines near Beirut airport again came under fire on 30 August and the Americans retaliated by destroying two armed positions in Ash-Shuwayfat and the Faculty of Sciences area, a Marine spokesman announced in a statement reported by the Voice of Lebanon. The U.S. Embassy was also subjected to rocket and machinegun fire while four French soldiers were killed and seven others were wounded when shells hit the French Embassy, the radio also reported.

A Lebanese Army statement broadcast by the Voice of Lebanon early on 31 August accused "foreign quarters" of trying to rekindle the civil war of 1975-76 and announced a curfew in the areas of the Army's current operations aimed at preserving the unity of Beirut. The Army will fire at any armed person without warning and will deal with sources of fire "very firmly," the statement added.

While fighting raged in Beirut, a separate clash erupted in Tripoli between the Islamic Unification Movement and pro-Iraq Ba'thists, according to the Voice of Lebanon. Meanwhile, the IDF evacuated three villages in the 'Alayh area but froze further withdrawals following the Israeli-U.S. talks in Jerusalem, Beirut radio noted. The Israeli Defense Ministry subsequently confirmed that the delay in the IDF withdrawal is "only for a few days," according to Jerusalem radio.

Related Political Developments — Amal Movement leader Birri called for the resignation of the government and the disarming of the Phalangist militias and stated that Amal will continue to fight the "sectarian" Army until its demands for reform are granted, according to a Damascus radio report on a press conference given by Birri. Beirut radio's account of Birri's remarks did not mention the threat to continue fighting but quoted him as calling on gunmen to leave the streets. Earlier, a Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) spokesman announced that the PSP had placed "all its resources" at the disposal of Amal and said the Lebanese Army must return to its barracks before a political accord can be reached, Damascus television reported.

Israel

Political maneuvering continued as the Herut Party met unsuccessfully 30 August to choose a new party leader to succeed Prime Minister Menahem Begin, according to Jerusalem radio. The prime minister had agreed to postpone his resignation after pleas by ministers for time to prepare and organize the party, the prime minister's adviser Uri Porat told Jerusalem television. Minister Without Portfolio Ari'el Sharon, mentioned in earlier Jerusalem radio reports as a possible candidate, will support Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir for the post, the radio said.

Meanwhile, the other candidate mentioned, Deputy Prime Minister David Levi, wants the Herut center to decide on the new party head while Shamir prefers the party ministers to choose the new candidate, another radio report added.

Israel needs the broadest possible government and a feeling of unity, Labor Party Chairman Shi'mon Peres stated in remarks Broadcast by Jerusalem television. With the "de facto collapse" of the present government, more and more Knesset factions are becoming convinced that the Alignment could lead a new government, Peres asserted. Told that party leaders in the Likud had reiterated their support for their partnership in the alliance, Peres maintained that the situation has changed now that Begin has declared he will definitely resign. Informal talks are being held with various factions, he said.

A Jerusalem radio correspondent claimed that neither the National Religious Party (NRP), Agudat Yisra'el, nor TAMI is "averse" to the "possibility of setting up an alternative government led by the Alignment." Education Minister Zvulun Hammer stated that the NRP supports the establishment of a "national unity government" and will contact the Alignment to try to persuade it to join, the radio said. Likud MK Dror Zeigerman also began efforts to consolidate a group of coalition Knesset members who will demand a national unity government, another radio report added.

In another development, Uri Porat announced in a statement broadcast by the radio that the visit by West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl had been canceled because of the prime minister's declared intention to resign.

PLO Affairs

Sanctions Call — PLO Political Department chief Faruq Qaddumi told the UN conference on Palestine in Geneva that the United Nations should adopt sanctions against Israel to dissuade it from pursuing its "racist" policy, AFP reported.

PLO Research Center — Jordan has officially granted approval for the opening of a new Palestinian research center in Amman, Baghdad Voice of PLO radio announced.

Libya-Chad

Calling it a "matter of security," Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi confirmed Libya's political support for former Chadian President Goukouni Oueddei while stating that "there is no need" for military support. In remarks broadcast by Hamburg television, Al-Qadhdhafi reiterated that Libya is not involved militarily in Chad. Meanwhile, Chadian President Hissein Habre expressed fears in a radio interview cited by AFP that Libya will turn its present "military occupation" in the north into a fait accompli. There is also proof, the president stated, that Libyan-trained commandos have infiltrated the south. As for negotiations, Libya is the aggressor so the government will hold talks only with it and not with the Transitional National Union Government led by Goukouni Oueddei. Chad is also ready to conclude a "mutual nonaggression pact" with Libya, Habre announced.

Iran

Hijackers Surrender — The gunmen who hijacked an Air France plane to Tehran surrendered to Iranian authorities 31 August and requested political asylum after meeting with Iraqi and Lebanese clergymen and reading a statement at a press conference, according to Tehran radio.

Prosecutor General on Opposition — Tudeh Party leaders will be tried "in the near future," Prosecutor General Hoseyn Musavi-Tabrizi stated in an interview with the paper *Keyhan* cited by IRNA. The official also stated that the Hojjatiyeh faction may resume activities subject to permission from the Interior Ministry.

Vacant Cabinet Posts — The clandestine Free Voice of Iran radio asserted that the Majlis had rejected three ministerial candidates proposed by Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi because of a struggle between the prime minister and Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who had earlier attacked the government in a Friday sermon for being slow and creating problems for the people.

Pakistan

More than 40 people were arrested when almost 40,000 demonstrators clashed with riot police in Sind Province, AFP reported.

Afghanistan

Soviet troops suffered "heavy losses" during renewed fighting with mujahidin leader Ahmad Shah Mas'ud's forces in the Panjshir valley, AFP reported citing diplomatic sources in Islamabad.

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Palestinian Mediators To Leave for Tunis

LD301223 Kuwait KUNA in English 1142 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Text] Amman, Aug 30 (KUNA) — The Palestinian mediation committee set up by the Palestinian Central Council to heal the rift within the mainstream Fatah commando movement and PLO-Syrian differences will leave Wednesday for Tunis, it was reported Tuesday.

The Jordanian daily *Ad-Dustur* said the committee will submit its report to PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat on the outcome of contacts with various parties as well as recommendations to resolve differences. The committee, headed by Central Committeemember Ibrahim Bakr and including Palestinian personalities from the occupied West Bank, has lately held a series of meetings in Damascus with Fatah breakaway leaders and ranking Syrian officials.

PNC Delegation Head Al-Fahum Assesses Talks

AU301208 Prague Rude Pravo in Czech 29 Aug 83 p 6

[Report on interview given by Khalid al-Fahum, head of the PNC delegation, to Oldrich Pospisil: "Firm Solidarity" — date and place not given]

[Text] The negotiations which we conducted with Comrade Alois Indra (Federal Assembly chairman), as well as with Comrade Josef Kempny (Czech National Council chairman), have proven the concurrence of our opinions said Khalid al-Fahum, head of the PNC delegation which was visiting our country a few days ago, in his interview for *Rude Pravo*.

The Palestinian representative stated: "We discussed the stands of our two sides on significant political issues, particularly the Palestinian problems and the Middle East in general. We pointed out the fact that U.S. practices in the Middle East clearly contradict the UN conclusions. The PLO must thoroughly prepare itself for a confrontation with the aggressive, expansionist policy of Israel, which is supported by the United States. This imperialist expansion is being carried out by political, military, and economic-financial means, and not only the Palestinians are exposed to it, but also the people of other Arab countries.

We stressed that the PLO resolutely rejects the Camp David treaty and the so-called Reagan plan, because they are aimed at liquidating the Palestinian liberation movement. Washington continues to refuse to recognize the PLO as the only legitimate representative of the Palestinians. It is denying the Palestinians their natural right of self-determination, including that of setting up their own independent state.

It is being confirmed that the Arab peace plan that emerged from the Fes meeting — as well as the USSR's initiative and the declaration of the Warsaw Pact's Political Consultative Committee that was adopted at the committee's January session in Prague — represent the only correct and realistic platform for a peaceful solution in the Middle East, which would be implemented with direct UN participation.

The Czechoslovakian comrades stressed that they consistently support the PLO and all Palestinian people in their persistent effort to realize just national demands. Our side stressed that the PLO and the people of the Middle East reject the insidious U.S. policy which enhances tension not only in the Middle East, but also in other areas of Asia and Africa, as well as in Western Europe, where the imperialists are preparing to deploy first-strike nuclear weapons. We are aware that the countries of the socialist community, with the Soviet Union at the head, are the most powerful obstacle to the plans harbored by the disrupters of world peace. Our talks confirmed the firm and lasting nature of the support granted to us by the Czechoslovak people, the CPCZ, the National Front, and Comrade Gustav Husak, CPCZ Central Committee general secretary, personally.

Cooperation between the CSSR's Federal Assembly and the PNC has developed with common stands on the substantial issues of world development, and on the Middle East problems in particular. We coordinate our collaboration at the conferences of the Interparliamentary Union and at other international forums. The all-round cooperation between Czechoslovakia's Parliament and the PNC is deepening and expanding, the Palestine representative stated.

He continued: "I am taking with me from your country impressions that are truly beautiful. I could name a number of industrial enterprises and unified cooperative farms which we have visited. And we have convinced ourselves of a real progress. For instance, I would like to point out the impressive upsurge of building production in the capital of Prague. All this has again proved for us the successes that are being achieved by your society. At the same time, the CSSR'S powerful advance confirms for us your people's longong for a life in peace, and also the substatiation of the solidarity support that Czechoslovakia is granting to the Palestinians and to other peoples who are fighting for freedom and a life in peace.

"The Palestinian people have at their disposal many qualified, experienced, and highly educated workers among their own ranks. Due to the invasion of the Israeli aggressors, a number of our social, administrative, and management institutions in Beirut have been destroyed. But thanks to the skill and dynamic, selfless nature of our people, new institutions have already been set up — in Damascus and Tunis for example. We are consistently learning from the past. We are striving for a higher efficiency in all our activities. The PLO is firmly resolved to accomplish its historic mission. And our unity, which must be achieved and consolidated only through a democratic dialogue, is one of the prerequisites of the final success of this battle," Khalid al-Fahum stressed.

Reportage on Palestinian UN Conference in Geneva

For Arab media and other coverage of the UN Conference on Palestine being held in Geneva, Switzerland, including a speech by PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, comments from the PLO's Faruq Qaddumi, a report on Egypt's participation,and a meeting between Lebanese NSP leader Junblatt and Syrian Foreign Minister Khaddam, see the International Affairs section of the

31 August Western Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Fatah Dissidents Condemn 'Arafat Invitation

LD300917 Tripoli JANA in English 0805 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Text] Damascus, Dhulqidah 22, August 30, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The new revolutionary movement in Fatah condemned the invitation addressed by 'Arafat's envoy at the U.N to a number of Zionist personalities to attend the international solidarity meeting with the Arab Palestinian people which started yesterday in Geneva.

The movement described, in a statement put out in Damascus yesterday, this invitation as a new step towards dealing directly with the Zionist enemy. The statements confirmed that this action is yet another step towards aborting the sacrifices of the Arab Palestinian people and its struggle to attain its rights and liberate its homeland. The statement added that the invitation shows 'Arafat's lack of attention to the hopes of the Palestinian people and its aims, while he continues to hold out his hand to the Zionist enemy at a time when the enemy's violence is increasing and continues to kill, oppress, and harrass the Arab population in the occupied Arab territories.

The movements's statement confirmed that all honorable fighters in the Palestinian struggle and Arab national forces condemn this invitation, and call for confronting this action and the series of political deviations followed by the devia[illegible] line in the Palestinian struggle.

Iranian Contacts With Fatah Dissidents Reported

GF300515 Jidda 'Ukaz in Arabic 19 Aug 83 p 1

[Exclusive report]

[Excerpt] Palestinian sources in Beirut and Damascus yesterday confirmed that Iran is trying to widen Palestinian differences inside Fatah in order to make the efforts to eliminate Palestinian-Syrian differences fail.

The sources said that Iran has promised the dissidents increased support and weapons to attack 'Arafat's supporters. The sources said that Iran had already delivered weapons to the dissidents, and that these weapons were used during the dissidents' attacks on 'Arafat's forces in Tripoli, Lebanon. They said that Iran has asked the leaders of the dissidents to visit Tehran in order to receive instructions regarding their policy on Fatah.

The sources affirmed that Iranian Foreign Affairs Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati discussed with Nimr Salih [Abu Salih] and Qadri [Samih Abu Quwayq] — leaders of the Fatah dissidents — Iran's support to the dissident movement and increased cooperation between the two sides. Velayati concentrated on the importance of developing Iran's support to the dissidents so the dissidents will adhere to their stance. Velayati also asked continued contacts in order to be acquainted with all the developments.

The purpose of the meeting was to affirm Iran's support to the dissident movement inside Fatah at the same time that the Fatah Central Committee was resuming its meeting in Tunis yesterday with the participation of PLO Central Committee Chairman Mr 'Arafat. *'Ukaz* has learned from Palestinian sources in Tunis that this meeting is concentrating on discussion of the proposals of the Palestinian reconciliation committee which mediated between Fatah and the dissidents. The meeting will respond to these proposals.

Begin Resignation Expected To Bring No Change

JN302010 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Recorded dispatch by unidentified radio correspondent]

[Text] O brothers; Palestinian figures in the occupied homeland, regardless of their different opinions, have affirmed that what the Palestinian citizens in the occupied West Bank and Gaza aspire for is a change in the Israeli policy, not a change in the person in charge of this policy. Ibrahim at-Tawil, mayor of Al-Birah, who was dismissed by the Zionist authorities, said that the main reason for Begin's resignation was his total failure in the Lebanon war. He added that he hopes that this resignation leads to a change in the Israeli policy toward the Palestine question. Ilyas Frayj, mayor of Bethlehem, said: We are not concerned about the developments in Israel's political life. What concerns us is the abandoning by the new Israeli Government of its present policy. Rashad ash-Shawwa, mayor of Gaza, expressed the hope that this resignation, when it is confirmed, will lead to putting an end to the Israeli settlement policy on the West Bank and Gaza,and to paving the way to a just and durable peace in the Middle East. Mustafa an-Natshah, mayor of Hebron who was dismissed by the occupation authorities last June, said that Begin's desire to resign proves the failure of his policy in the occupied territories. On the Palestinian revolution level, Brother Abu as-Sa'id, Khalid al-Hasan, said that the resignation of Israeli Prime Minister Menahim Begin will not have any effect on the Palestinian revolution. He wondered what effect the resignation will have on us since all Israeli leaders are the same. Any other leader will pursue the same policy. Even if elections were held, Begin's replacement would continue his Zionist policy which is linked with U.S. imperialism. The decision on Israel's policy is adopted in Washington, not in Tel Aviv.

Israelis Hold Sa'd Haddad After Escape Attempt

JN301730 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Text] Reports coming from Beirut today said that the Zionist authorities have issued an order to hold agent Sa'd Haddad after he and his family tried to escape to the U.S. Embassy in Beirut as a first step to depart for a foreign country.

A report coming from the occupied territories has confirmed this news. The report said that this order was made in the last 48 hours by the Zionist commander of the northern area after agent Haddad decided to escape from southern Lebanon when he became certain that his Zionist overlords had decided to dispense with him because his treasonous role in serving their designs has expired, and that they are looking for a new agent. The report added that the Zionist authorities are now contacting a person known as Abu Fahd in southern Lebanon to be appointed instead of Haddad, so he can play another role in serving the invading forces.

Abu Fahd is known to have very close ties with Sa'd Haddad.

Jordan To Open Palestinian Center in Amman

JN301736 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Text] The Jordanian Government has officially informed the PLO of its approval on opening the Palestinian Research Center in Amman.

GULF AFFAIRS

GCC's Bisharah on Gulf Security, Gulf War

GF271718 Kuwait Al-Qabas in Arabic 26 Aug 83 pp 1, 3

[Report on "exclusive" statement by GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Bisharah to *Al-Qabas* correspondent in At-Ta'if, Husayn Salamah — date not given]

[Excerpts] Kuwait played a distinguished role in the meetings of the eighth session of the GCC Ministerial Council.

GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Bisharah has affirmed to *Al-Qabas* that whatever the capabilities of the GCC states may be, these states insist on the principled and basic position that they should be responsible for protecting and defending their security by themselves without allowing any foreign forces to interfer.

The most important political issue discussed was Gulf security, which is directly affected by the continuation of the Iran-Iraq war and the bad consequences of the continuation of the war to the peoples of the entire region, including the Iranian people. Regarding this question, GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Bisharah told *Al-Qabas* that the council's position is constant, clear, and indisputable. This position is that the Gulf peoples alone are authorized to defend and protect Gulf security and that the GCC is against any foreign interference in the political and security affairs of this region. Bisharah said that the countries of this region are watching with great concern the continuation of the Iraq-Iran war, because this war can lead this region to international conflicts. He said that the council has called on and is continuously calling on the Gulf countries to use their minds in settling the political issues and to replace terror with means that are based on dialogue and peaceful negotiations.

Bisharah said: The world may laugh at us when we say that the Gulf countries alone are authorized to defend the region, but whatever our capabilities may be, we insist that this is the basic principle for achieving security and peace for our peoples. The GCC does not believe in a separate Gulf security and Middle East security and believes that there is a parallel relationship between the two issues. Therefore, the council highly assessed efforts for restoring Arab solidarity for confronting the threats within the framework of a comprehensive strategy.

BAHRAIN

Amir Returns From U.S., Europe 30 August

GF301843 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1738 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Excerpt] Manama, 30 Aug (WAKH) — Bahraini Amir His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah returned to Manama from Europe this evening after a private visit, which was preceded by an official visit to the United States.

Interior Minister on GCC Security Agreement

GF282020 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1540 GMT 28 Aug 83

[Excerpt] Bahraini Interior Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Khalifah Al Khalifah has affirmed that the security agreement among the GCC states is the legislation of an existing reality within the framework of a formula that is acceptable to all. In a statement to the *Ufuq Amniyah* magazine which is issued by the Bahraini Interior Ministry and was published today, the Bahraini interior minister said that there is a security cooperation among the GCC states and that this cooperation is developing daily to take its correct way. He said that there are bilateral agreements among some of the GCC states, which will be expanded into a comprehensive agreement.

Shaykh Muhammad ibn Khalifah Al Khalifah said that some articles of the comprehensive agreement have been agreed upon. He added that the final opinion on all the articles will be reached very soon and then the desired agreement will be confidently signed by all. The Bahraini interior minister expressed hope that the GCC interior ministers will one day be able to finish formulating this comprehensive agreement.

The Bahraini interior minister said that the threats to the Arab world have influence on the Gulf region. He said that the struggle in this region has its negative effects on the GCC states and that it is important to cooperate to confront these threats and conflicts. He said that the security agreement among the GCC states has come to crystalize this cooperation in a comprehensive agreement.

Information Minister Interviewed on Media

Discusses Press

GF282030 Manama Akhbar Al-Khalij in Arabic 25 Aug 83 p 3

[First part of interview with Information Minister Tariq 'Abd ar-Rahman al-Mu'ayyad by 'Ismat al-Musawi in Manama — no date given]

[Excerpt] [Al-Musawi] The Cabinet recently asked you to carry out a feasability study on the publication of a second daily newspaper. Did you find this necessary?

[Al-Mu'ayyad] I favor the publication of a second daily newspaper because this will create a kind of honest competition with *Akhbar Al-Khalij* and will consequently lead to the development of both papers. However, we are waiting for the right conditions and such a paper will be published at the appropriate time.

I believe that the market can accommodate a second daily newspaper. The proof is the profits made by Bahrain television, profits that totalled 1.5 million Bahraini dinars. I believe that a good newspaper that can reach the reader will benefit from the advertising market. This in itself is an incentive for developing our press.

[Al-Musawi] How true are the reports on merging the weekly magazines into a daily newspaper? What is your view of such a suggestion?

[Al-Mu'ayyad] It was not we who made this suggestion but the publications themselves. They suggested it in view of the financial difficulties they are facing as a result of a lack of advertising revenues, and perhaps because the financial support provided to them by the government is too small. The weekly magazines need financial support because their revenues are little. However, to talk about this subject is like asking which came first, the chicken or the egg. Should these magazines develop themselves first and prove that they deserve increased financial support, or should we first increase their financial support and then wait for them to develop themselves. Therefore, the ministry will not implement the merger proposal unless the editors in chief of these magazines agree.

[Al-Musawi] Do you favor a government-owned or a privately-owned press and why?

[Al-Mu'ayyad] I personally believe that the press should be privately owned as this has many advantages. At the same time, the press cannot do without the government's financial and moral support. Here I would like to clarify an important point: We live in an area where there are differences between citizens and responsible officials. Every official is a citizen, and every citizen is responsible to his country and people. The government is part of the whole country. One cannot distinguish between what the government gives to the press and what the citizens give to the press. We are not like other countries where there are parties and the supporters of a particular party rule, or where there is a particular group that is in power and the press is subordinate to it. We are in a country where everyone works to serve the interests of the homeland and the citizens.

[Al-Musawi] Since we are talking about the relationship between the government and the press I have an important question: Some journalists complain that the publications law restricts their freedom and makes them afraid of being liable to sanctions. Why isn't this law more flexible?

[Al-Mu'ayyad] The policy of the Bahraini Government is an extremely flexible policy. No journalists has been put on trial or even taken to task because he expressed his views. As for the fear you mentioned, that is a sign of the sense of responsibility which we expect journalists to have. It signifies that they are aware that they must not harm the interests of the people or hurt the feelings of others. Thus such a fear is positive and is not misplaced. No arbitrary measure has been taken against any journalist in enforcing the publications law. On the contrary, the sense of belonging to one family which prevails in Bahrain encourages journalists to write what they want freely and honestly.

[Al-Musawi] Does this mean that the door for criticism is open?

[Al-Mu'ayyad] The problem that I always face is not the journalists' complaints but the complaints officials have against the press. Nevertheless, all officials accept constructive criticism and from the amir to any government official, all are prepared to listen to criticism.

Discusses Gulf Television, WAKH

GF282044 Manama Akhbar Al-Khalij in Arabic 26 Aug 83 p3

[Second and last part of interview with Bahraini Information Minister Tariq 'Abd ar-Rahman al-Mu'ayyad by 'Ismat al-Musawi in Manama — date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Musawi] The television lacks serious programs and cultural, literary, social, and political discussions. Before I completed my question, his excellency answered:

[Al-Mu'ayyad] There are serious programs, but within reason. We are seeking to increase such programs if conditions are suitable. We do not want to screen a repeat of what we have already shown. The number of intellectuals and writers in Bahrain is limited, and we cannot repeat programs of their output.

[Al-Musawi] Is it true that the GCC countries are thinking of setting up a unified Gulf radio and a joint Gulf television and issuing a unified Gulf paper?

[Al-Mu'ayyad] My view in this regard is that the Gulf radios, television, and press should speak in the same voice and with the same heart. This is more important than having a joint paper, radio, or television. However, thank God, from the point of political outlook there are no differences between us. Our information media follow the same methods and address citizens the same way, namely that of respecting the citizen, presenting to him what is reasonable and shunning political vituperation. Perhaps this is due to the qualities of the people of the Gulf and the leaders of the GCC who have imparted to the media the distinctive characteristic of being well-balanced and reasonable.

[Al-Musawi] Bahrain was charged by the GCC information ministers to present a clear idea of the region and its views. What steps have been taken in this regard?

[Al-Mu'ayyad] The biggest contribution made by Bahrain in this regard is to allow foreign news agencies to have offices and correspondents in Bahrain. Bahrain must take pride in its liberal climate, the like of which does not exist in countries more advanced than ours. Opening the door wide open to foreign newspapers and news agencies means that the government and citizens have confidence in what they are presenting and that the government has nothing to fear or hide. It does not matter to us if what we present is not compatible with the views of others in the United States, Europe or Japan. What is important is that it is compatible with the wishes and aspirations of the citizens of the region and Bahrain.

[Al-Musawi] I asked the minister how far coordination among the Gulf countries has gone with regard to television transmission, since there is much overlapping among the region's television transmission?

[Al-Mu'ayyad] This is the biggest problem facing the Gulf countries. The overlapping is not as much technical as it is a result of the nature of the region. Technically, the maker of a transmission station cannot and should not imagine that Iraqi television is received in Dubai, for instance. However, this happens. It is due to humidity in summer, and to the "duct" — the distance in the air along which frequencies can travel at faster than normal speed. This phenomenon exists in the Gulf, and therefore we see and hear radios and television which we are not supposed to receive. Ultimately, the result is overlapping. This is clear in the case of Iraqi and Qatari television: Both are transmitted on the same wavelength. Technically, Qatari television is not supposed to be received in Iraq, and Iraqi television is not supposed to be received in Qatar, but this happens.

Nevertheless, we are optimistic about the future. This is because the solution is, God willing, conversion to UHF. UHF has more room for television channels. In the past we were confined to the third channel (from 5-13 — and these are nine channels). Now, however, every country has only two channels and this cannot meet our needs. However, if we should turn to UHF, and this is the right course, we will be able to receive more than one channel and the problem will be solved.

[Al-Musawi] The minister smiled and said:

[Al-Mu'ayyad] But people will have to buy new UHF antennas to receive the new stations.

[Al-Musawi] Regardless of the fact that you are chairman of WAKH's board of directors, it is said that the agency's task is confined to the collection of news of the Gulf countries from other Gulf news agencies and retransmitting this news, and that WAKH is reserved in its news. Why does it not enjoy press freedom? Why does it rely only on official news emanating from member countries and why does it not carry exclusive reports and cover activities in the Gulf region on the spot and report them?

[Al-Mu'ayyad] We complain that the press does not report WAKH's news accurately. Moreover, WAKH daily carries reports and analyses on the Gulf, but our press ignore them. Indeed, some papers reproduce them but fail to attribute them to WAKH. Therefore, the people do not know what the agency gives them. WAKH must proceed within the framework it was created, namely to provide services for a specific period of time and in a manner that is compatible with the Gulf's development. WAKH is an official organ, therefore it must be a well-balanced organ that shuns vituperation and unconfirmed reports.

KUWAIT

Foreign Minister Leaves For Geneva UN Conference

LD310849 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0745 GMT 31 Aug 83

[Text] Kuwait, 31 Aug (KUNA) — The deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, left here today on his way to Geneva to participate in the UN conference on the Palestinian issue, which was called by the United Nations.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad stated to the press before his departure that he will stop in Jidda to meet the Saudi King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-Aziz to convey to His Majesty a message from Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah.

He added that the message concerns the GCC efforts to achieve a minimum of Arab reconciliation in preparation for the Arab summit, which is expected to be held in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia next November.

Shaykh Sabah has conveyed this week a message from Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. Also, Saudi Foreign Minister Shaykh Sa'ud al-Faysal has handed a message from King Fahd to Jordanian King Husayn. The two messages concern the efforts to the Gulf states to clarify the Arab atmosphere in preparation for holding the summit.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad will travel to Geneva today, where he will deliver a speech to the UN conference next Friday.

QATAR

Djibouti Foreign Minister Arrives Doha 30 Aug

GF301353 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1220 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Excerpt] Doha, 30 Aug (WAKH) — Djibouti Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Minister Moumin Bahdon Farah arrived in Doha from Abu Dhabi this afternoon on a 2-day visit to Qatar.

SAUDI ARABIA

Commentator on Call for Lebanese Reconciliation

GF301343 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Analysis by Hamzah Muhsin as-Saqqaf]

[Excerpts] While efforts were being exerted to enable the Lebanese Government to control the situation in the areas from where the Israeli withdrawal is expected to take place during the next 2 days in the mountains of Lebanon, Ash-Shuf and 'Alayh — areas overlooking the southern suburbs of Beirut which are the areas of tension — the situation in Beirut, and in the sourthern area in particular, erupted in clashes which threaten the future of the political situation of those who are concerned with the Lebanese issue, particularly the United States.

These events and their political and security repercussions are considered a blow to the role of the United States, which recently began to tackle the Lebanese issue among the Lebanese parties themselves, using the Lebanese Army's entry into the areas of the partial Israeli withdrawal in the mountain, with the backing of the multinational force. This provided a new chance to test the good intentions toward the future of the U.S. solution or the initiative which the U.S. President recently reiterated that he would go ahead with.

The U.S. position was seriously shaken after the Beirut events thus affecting efforts by U.S. envoy Robert McFarlane to widen the role of the multinational force and reach a stage of national reconciliation to protect the U.S role in the Middle East, efforts which were the basis of his recent European tour. All this vanished following the deterioration of the situation in Beirut.

The only beneficiary from all these events and their political and security repercussions is the Israeli enemy, who found himself forced to partially withdraw to southern Lebanon. At the time he is trying hard to leave these areas, his withdrawal has left a secuirty vacuum.

In view of this serious reality, the Lebanese role and the need for national reconciliation — as a national trusteeship made necessary by the political situation and changes — is underlined. Because of this serious situation and its impact, Saudi Arabia made the call to the Lebanese people to stop fighting and reach a national reconciliation to save Lebanon from the threats of the Zionist plot which is menacing everything in it — citizen and national unity.

Fighting in Beirut, Begin Resignation Linked

LD302222 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Commentary by Husayn al-Askari]

[Text] Is the situation in Lebanon heading for renewed fighting among its sects? This question has been imposing itself on the course of events in the last 2 days — a course which gives the impression that a mysterious party is trying to ignite the flames of sedition every time these flames abate or are about to abate. Everything points to the fact that the Israeli enemy, who refuses to withdraw from Lebanon, is persisting in putting pressure on events in order to explode the situation and to justify his continued occupation — especially after Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan announced that Israel is at present demanding things which were not contained in the Lebanese-Israeli agreement.

Hence the Lebanese capital, Beirut, is experiencing the armed confrontation which took place between the army forces and Lebanese factions yesterday and the day before yesterday. This indicates that the enemy was not far from creating the circumstances that led to the inflammation and explosion of the situation in a manner which forced the closure of Beirut airport as it was within the area of clashes.

This being the case, observers believe that it is not unlikely the enemy was trying by means of the sudden clashes to put pressure on the Lebanese authorities to make them rescind their demand for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the suburbs of Beirut and from the mountains. The same observers link Israel's efforts to exacerbate the situation in Lebanon and the maneuver by the enemy prime minister, that is, tendering his resignation. They believe the Israelis do not want to withdraw from Lebanon until after the flames of civil war are reignited, as punishment for not surrendering to the Israeli demands which the Lebanese strongly and firmly rejected and continue to reject.

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Arrives in Jidda

LD311018 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0955 GMT 31 Aug 83

[Text] Jidda 31 Aug (SPA) — Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah arrived in Jidda at noon today on a short visit to the Kingdom during whch he will convey to His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz a message from his brother the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah, concerning the GCC's efforts to achieve a consensus on Arab reconciliation in preparation for the coming Arab summit. He was received at the airport by Foreign Minister His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the chief of protocol at the Foreign Ministry, Salim Sunbul, the Kuwaiti charge in Jidda, 'Abdallah al-Muhaytib, and members of the embassy.

Tehran: Scholar Arrested on Arrival Home

LD302211 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Text] According to reports received, Hojjat ol-Eslam Shaykh Ghalib al-Himad, one of the learned ulema residing in the seminary of Qom, was arrested by security officials after arriving in his country, Saudi Arabia.

UAE

Paper Assails Marines' Behavior in Beirut

GF301050 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0630 GMT 30 Aug 83

[From the press review]

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 30 Aug (WAM) — *Ash-Shariqah Al-Khalij* newspaper has assailed the U.S. stance on the current dispute in Lebanon. Under the headline "The United States Reveals Itself", the paper says that the shelling by Marines of the positions of the national forces will end U.S. efforts in the Lebanese crisis since the United States is now a part in the crisis and not an honest mediator trying to solve it. The paper continues that this was confirmed last year when the Palestinian forces were ejected from Beirut. The Reagan administration at that time failed to honor its commitments because the Marines failed to defend the helpless people in Sabra and Shatila and turned a blind eye to the carnages which were being perpetrated by the Israelis and their aides against the Palestinians in Lebanon.

The paper points out that since the visit of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz to Beirut and to Damascus "the U.S. effort has focused on equating the Palestinian, Syrian, and Israeli presence, thus trying to give the impression that the complication of the Lebanese issue is attributed to Syria and the PLO and not to Israel's occupation of vast parts of Lebanon." The paper expresses the belief that the Marines' shelling of the positions of the national forces will be a prelude for strafing the positions of these forces in the mountainous region [of Ash-Shuf] or in the north and in Al-Biqa'. Concluding, the paper demands that the Arab countries condemn the U.S. stance toward killing Lebanese and help the Lebanese people to combat all forms of terrorism that are perpetrated against them.

GCC Decision on Severing Relations Supported

GF301542 Dubayy Khaleej Times in English 29 Aug 83 p 6

[Editorial: "Measured Gulf Response"]

[Text] Saturday's disclosure by the AGCC secretary-general that member-states have decided to cut off all economic and other forms of assistance to countries which restore diplomatic relations with Israel is to be warmly welcomed. Mr 'Abdallah Bisharah said that the decision was taken at last week's meeting of the AGCC ministerial council in At-Ta'if. It is in line with the generally resolute attitude adopted at the meeting, which also signalled a new AGCC initiative to work for a consensus before a planned Arab summit in November. It reflects, moreover, a growing awareness of the need to react decisively and boldly to developments that are taking place around us.

The warning that the AGCC states will sever economic and diplomatic ties with countries restoring diplomatic relations with the Zionist enemy comes in the wake of Liberia's move to normalise links with the Israeli junta. The Liberian president, Samuel Doe, concluded a four-day visit to Israel at the weekend during which he signed an agreement to establish diplomatic ties. So far, Zaire was the only other African country with relations with Israel, and the Liberian step was being interpreted as setting the stage for several other countries in that continent moving in the same direction. The Jordanian foreign minister had immediately issued a statement cautioning against overlooking the implications of the overtures between Israel and some African countries. The AGCC decision should now serve to bolster this warning and help to check any drift towards reducing the international isolation of Israel. It is vital for the Arab, the African and the Third World cause that the anti-racist front against Israel and South Africa must not be permitted to weaken, and it should be hoped that the Arab League and the Organisation of African Unity would issue a joint statement condemning Liberia's step, restating the united stand against Zionism and apartheid and adopting the decision taken by the AGCC ministerial council as the position of all Arab and African countries.

In this context, it is equally welcome to see that two African states, Nigeria and Zambia, have just signed agreements with the Palestine Liberation Organisation restoring diplomatic relations. According to the Palestinian news agency, PLO will open offices in the capitals of the two countries which will have embassy status with full diplomatic rights. The agency said that the Nigerian and Zambian decision "in support of the Palestinian people's cause and national rights is a reaffirmation of the Afro-Arab struggle against the racist regimes of South Africa and Israel".

The PLO and Arab countries should now carry this forward and persuade African countries who still have unofficial ties with Israel or who have sought Israeli advisers to end all such relations. Arab pressure could be crucial in this. Several Arab development funds are operating in Africa, and while the policy has always been to give aid on the basis of genuine need rather than any political considerations, there is no reason why the Arab nation should tolerate any nonsense on an issue which is vital to its security. Not trying to influence a country's domestic policy through the use of aid is one thing; but to express distaste and abhorrence at anything that strengthens racist, expansionist regimes would be only proper and just.

President Receives Message From Djibouti Leader

GF301051 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0835 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 30 Aug (WAKH) — UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan has received a written message from Djibouti President Hassan Gouled dealing with bilateral relations and issues of common interest. The message was conveyed by Djibouti Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Minister Bahdon Farah Moumin during a meeting with UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rashid 'Abdallah today.

PDRY

YSP CC Begins 10th Ordinary Session 29 Aug

GF291434 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 29 Aug 83

[Text] The YSP Central Committee today began its 10th ordinary session under the chairmanship of Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, and chairman of the Council of Ministers. The Central Committee will discuss topics and reports dealing with our domestic and external activities the past period in various party, political, economic, and cultural fields, and ways of strengthening and developing the country's revolutionary process under the YSP's leadership.

In its morning meeting, the YSP Central Committee discussed the results of the first session of the Supreme People's Council and the visit of 'Ali Nasir Muhammad to the northern part of the homeland and his meetings and talks with the leaders of the northern part of the homeland, foremost among whom is President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. The Central Committee assessed the results and resolutions of the first session of the Supreme Yemeni Council — results which culminated in the signing of the joint political statement and the minutes of the special ministerial committee formed by the Supreme Yemeni Council. The Central Committee expressed satisfaction with all that was agreed upon, which was an extension of previous agreements on unification.

The Central Committee stressed the importance of consolidating the efforts to unify the two parts of Yemen in the present period through the practical implementation of the results and resolutions of the first session of the Supreme Yemeni Council and turning them into tangible actions that contribute toward strengthening the spirit of the desired unity to which the masses of our Yemeni people aspire.

The Central Committee emphasized the need to continue the expansion of cooperation and coordination between the two parts of Yemen in various domestic and external fields in a manner that will ensure the exertion of the maximum responsible efforts for unity to overcome difficulties and the reality of partition and to confront all plots hostile to the unity of our Yemeni people by the enemies of the glorious 26 September and 14 October Revolutions. It also discussed increasing the contribution of the two parts of Yemen to the liberation struggle of our Arab peoples and supporting the anti-imperialist and anti-Zionist struggle.

The Central Committee also reviewed Arab and international developments and their effect on the course of struggle waged by the Arab national liberation movement with all the various Arab regimes and national and progressive forces. The Central Committee discussed the situation arising from the escalation of the organized imperialist-Zionist onslaught which aims to liquidate the achievements of the liberation struggle of our Arab peoples, restore imperialist hegemony over the region, and obliterate legitimate Arab rights and causes, foremost among which is the struggle of the Palestinian Arab people and their inalienable right to repatriation, self-determination and to establish an independent state under the leadership of their sole legitimate representative, the PLO. The Central Committee also discussed the plots against the struggle of the Lebanese people led by the National Salvation Front to end Israeli occupation of Lebanon and safeguard Lebanon's sovereignty and unity.

The YSP Central Committee discussed in particular the activities that are hostile to our Arab peoples, activities that reached their climax with the provocative military exercises by the U.S. RDF on the territory of Egypt, Oman, Sudan,and Somalia. Together with the military bases and the warships deployed in the territories of these countries, these exercises constitute a flagrant violation of the national sovereignty and a serious threat to the security and stability of our Arab peoples.

The Central Committee will resume the meetings of its 10th ordinary session this evening. It will discuss several topics on its agenda.

Cultural Issues Discussed 30 Aug

GF301350 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Text] The YSP Central Committee today resumed the meetings of its 10th ordinary session under the chairmanship of Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, YSP Central Committee secretary general, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, and chairman of the Council of Ministers.

The YSP Central Committee discussed a number of educational and cultural issues in the country and evaluated the work of the various apparatuses in this regard and the efforts made to implement the party's policy in educational and cultural fields. The YSP Central Committee stressed the need for these apparatuses to continue the efforts to develop the methods of their work and increase their efficacy in society's cultural and spiritual life.

Yesterday evening the YSP Central Committee discussed the standard of the implementation of the development plan for 1982, the second year of the 5-year development plan.

The YSP Central Committee will resume its meetings this evening. It will discuss other issues on its agenda.

Supreme People's Council Session To Begin 31 Aug

GF301348 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Text] The meetings of the 15th session of the Supreme People's Council will begin on 31 August under the chairmanship of Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, YSP secretary general, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, and chairman of the Council of Ministers.

During the session Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad will submit a political report in which he will review the political, economic, and social activities of the Supreme People's Council during the period between the 14th and 15th sessions. The council will also be informed of the results of the meetings of the first session of the Supreme Yemeni Council and will discuss an evaluation report on the 5-year plan for 1983, the amended advisory functions for 1983 in the 1983 5-year plan, and a report on the progress of preparations for the local people's council elections, as well as a number of bills and laws and the ratification of decrees issued by the presidium of the Supreme People's Council during the period between the council's 14th and 15th sessions.

Deputy Defense Minister Leaves for Libya

GF301859 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Text] First Deputy Minister of Defense Brigadier General 'Abdallah 'Ali 'Ulaywah left Aden for Tripoli today on a visit to Libya to participate with the fraternal Libyan people in their celebration of the anniversary of the glorious 1 September Revolution. Brother 'Ulaywah will hold meetings with Libyan officials to discuss cooperation between the two fraternal countries. He was seen off at the airport by military commanders.

YAR

San'a' Radio Views Begin Decision to Resign

GF301943 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] It is not strange that Israeli enemy's prime minister, Begin, has announced his intention to submit his resignation because the Israeli methods and political maneuvers have become clear to the entire world. However, it is really strange that such announcement caused such an unjustified media campaign, especially since the history of the Zionist gang leaders is full of similar pretentious stances used to either justify or veil their criminal practices which do not agree with the human rules and the international norms.

The reports carried by the news agencies on Begin are an attempt to black out the international conference for supporting the Palestinian issue which is being held in Geneva and which will review a series of brutal crimes, carnage, and poisoning massacres carried out by the Israeli soldiers and officers against the Palestinian people, and the hero of which was murderer Begin.

Also, the Israeli prime minister's claims cannot divert attention from the Zionist plot in the occupied territory, which aims to appoint persons or set up committees of Arab citizens to administer the municipality affairs in the occupied territories, after the Zionist authorities have isolated the legitimate mayors.

Mubarak: Begin Resignation 'Internal Affair'

NC300939 Cairo MENA in English 0913 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Text] Alexandria, Aug 30 (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak said here today that the reported resignation of Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin is an internal Israeli affair and warrants no comment from him. He noted that Begin participated in the Egyptian-Israeli peace negotiations which culminated in the signing of the Camp David peace treaty.

He said that despite that, no real solution to the Mideast problem has been reached and there was an invasion of Lebanon.

President Mubarak noted that Egypt deals with not only Begin but also with the Israeli Government.

He told reporters here today that he does not expect changes in policy under a new Israeli administration. However, he expressed hope that any change should be in the right direction, at least to reach a reasonable settlement and achieve peace in the entire area.

Asked to elaborate, President Mubarak said that the Palestinian issue is the basis of the entire Mideast conflict and should not, therefore, be ignored. He said that without solving this issue, a stable peace in the area would be difficult.

President Meets With Bright Star Participants

NC300622 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2230 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Text] President Husni Mubarak has met with the forces which are taking part in the Egyptian-U.S. maneuvers codenamed "Bright Star 83." The meeting was attended by Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, who briefed the president on the course of the various training stages. He also submitted a report to his excellency on the lessons derived from the training that had already taken place.

His excellency commended the outstanding performance demonstrated by both the Egyptian and American sides in the maneuvers.

Mubarak Inspects Production Sites 30 August

NC301024 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak this morning inspected products of Al-Mahalah, Wooltex, Kafr ad-Dawwar, Misr al-Bida, and Stia textile companies. The president heard a detailed explanation of the Egyptian products exhibited by the chairmen of the companies. The president requested an immediate expansion of production of men's suits, ready-to-wear clothing, and cotton materials with reasonable prices to satisfy the needs of the vast majority. The president also requested that Egyptian expertise be relied upon in the textile industry as Egypt has excellent experience in textile manufacturing.

Equatorial Guinea Foreign Minister Arrives 30 Aug

NC310630 Cairo MENA in English 2235 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Text] Cairo, Aug 30 (MENA) — The Equatorial Guinea's minister of foreign affairs and minister of planning arrived here tonight on a two-day visit to Egypt to convey a message from President of Equatorial Guinea to President Husni Mubarak. The minister of foreign affairs, in a statement upon arrival, added that he would have talks with officials on means to promote relations between the two countries.

AL-AHALI Columnist Views Egyptian-U.S. Relations

PM301034 Cairo Al-Ahali in Arabic 24 Aug 83 p 2

[Dr 'Abd al-Mun'im Sa'id article: "U.S.-Egyptian Military Maneuvers: 'Bright Star' Takes Egypt Out of Arab Security Sphere Into Western Security Sphere; Return to 'Arab Plan' Begins by Rectifying Egyptian-U.S. Relations"]

[Text] All last week Egyptian national newspapers quoted international news agency reports on the U.S. RDF and its coming to Egypt in order to carry out maneuvers in the desert this month. The papers were content with quoting these reports as if they concerned maneuvers taking place on another planet and relating to another people whom we do not know and a government that is not ours. Somehow these papers made these reports, which concern the very essence of our national independence, appear to be a secret shyly and gradually divulged via the foreign media.

In such behavior the national newspapers are pursuing a historical tradition that makes the question of national security some kind of a private ritual that concerns only a handful of people in the state's political and military command, creating the impression that to talk about the maneuvers and discuss them publicly is to harm Egypt's reputation in the nonaligned world, embarrass its relations with the socialist countries, and put a black mark on the page of our national independence. But the matter is far too important and serious to avoid public discussion. Though the question of the RDF is the subject of a heated debate in the U.S. Congress and American newspapers with regard to its securing of U.S. interests, it is rather the countries on whose soil the RDF is likely to operate that should examine this issue.

National Security

The question, of course, has three interlinked and interwoven dimensions, the first being Egyptian and Arab national security. It is noted that the range and scope of the operation of this force is widening further than was planned when it was first established by former President Carter. The objective of the force was to defend the oilfields and confront threats to block the Strait of Hormuz but was soon expanded to include the defense of the "conservative" or "moderate" Gulf states and finally to become the "defense" of the entire Middle East. This happened when Reagan's administration announced the expansion of the field of these forces so that they became a comprehensive project for the defense of the whole Middle East, whether against the external "Soviet threat" or any "radical" changes in the countries of the area that might disturb the international and regional strategic balance in the area to the disadvantage of U.S. interests.

The establishment of this force and the former president's [As-Sadat's] response to the U.S. desire to assign a strategic role to Egypt was undoubtedly a triumph for the Western viewpoint on the area's security and the priorities of the threats to it. Since the forties there have been two plans to protect Egyptian and Arab security, one of which was Western and was linked to the Atlantic defense system, which sees "Soviet expansion" as the principal threat to the area and which took the form of plans embodied in the Organization for the Defense of the Middle East (1951), the Baghdad Pact (1955), the Eisenhower Doctrine (1957), the Islamic Alliance (1965), and finally the Carter doctrine (1979).

With the exception of the last, none of the plans achieved significant success in relation to another regional plan, which began under the Wafd government in the fifties, crystallized during 'Abd an-Nasir's era, and was based on the idea that the principal threat to the area's security comes primarily from Israel and secondly from the Western powers that are seeking to reestablish a foothold in the area and to control its wealth, and that these threats can only be confronted through a pan-Arab joint defense system and comprehensive social and economic development.

But Carter's plan succeeded, and Egypt effectively shifted from the regional pan-Arab defense pattern to the Western pattern. This was a logical result of the military, economic, and social developments of the seventies in the Middle East. But with the beginning of the eighties the Middle East formula quite clearly began returning to its previous form. There is probably no doubt now that, after the developments in Iraq, Lebanon, the West Bank and Gaza, and the Golan, the principal threat comes from Israel. Even Egyptians who were enthusiastic about the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty cannot today ignore the future position of the strategic balance between Egypt and Israel when the latter imposes its total hegemony over the Fertile Crescent area.

The priorities of Egyptian and Arab national security cannot be compatible with RDF maneuvers in Egypt and with becoming absorbed in the Western defense system in view of the links of alliance between the United States and Israel. Also the U.S. presence in Egypt from time to time is sufficient in itself to incite a secondary conflict with the Soviet Union at a time when we are in need of this superpower in facing the principal confrontation with Israel. This is in addition to the side effects this presence will have on Egypt's status in the nonaligned group and on exacerbating the international tension which is becoming more acute each day, to the extent of threatening life on our planet as a result of the new developments in Washington which led to decisionmaking powers becoming concentrated in the hands of the narrow-minded American right that wants to use the big stick in dealing with the Soviet Union or with national and social liberation movements.

The conclusion we draw here is that Egypt's participation in the Western defense system is extremely harmful to Egyptian and Arab security and that the continuation of this situation will have negative and grave consequences when Israel completes its eastern conquests and again comes back to settle its accounts on the Egyptian western front. Sinai and the Suez Canal will always remain the target of the Israeli strategic plan in the area.

If the first dimension ends with defining the priorities of the threats to Egyptian security, discussing the second dimension necessitates discussing Egyptian-U.S. relations and seeking to end the contradiction between the ties of economic subservience and the nature of the threats facing Egypt. Whoever describes Cairo's relations with Washington as "special" cannot ignore the fact that the United States is Egypt's biggest trade partner and that U.S. aid makes these ties even more special, but the price of subservience is Egypt's continued link to the Western defense system, which is logical in the circumstances of international relations in which nobody, let alone a superpower like the United States, gives anything except for a high price.

A return to the pan-Arab security plan cannot be achieved without squarely facing the problems of Egyptian-U.S. economic relations. We would not bury our head in the sand and imagine that every problem can be solved by a presidential decree. The restoration of national independence necessitates rectifying the imbalance in Arab-U.S. trade relations by shifting our economic relations from total dependence to independence.

This might appear simple, but its implementation requires that all nationalist forces join hands in a persistent and intensive effort to achieve this objective by looking at every item on the agenda of Egyptian-U.S. relations separately, and seek to end the position of subservience by seeking relations with other countries in the East and West. What is most important is to get closer to the Arab world, for in the final analysis the security of the area will remain indivisible. In this field Egypt has a role to play, and so have the other Arab countries.

The International Order

There remains the third dimension, which concerns the present international order. The domination of the Western defense system in the area is part of international conditions that have been accumulating since the end of the seventies. The escalating U.S.-Soviet tension is having an impact on our area, whether we like it or not. It is therefore in the interest of countries of the region and of nationalist forces to seek to keep the area out of the holocaust of this conflict. Though the U.S. rightist forces are largely responsible for the present situation and for escalating international tension in Central America, the Middle East, and Africa, we cannot ignore the fact that Soviet intervention in Afghanistan contributed to this tension and gave these forces an excuse for their actions and provocations.

From the above we draw the conclusion that Egypt's inclusion in the Western defense system is harmful to its independence and national security and a definition of the priorities of the threats facing us cannot avoid the nature of the Zionist danger, even given the peace treaty with Israel. All the international laws and treaties will not be worth the paper they are written on when a strategic imbalance occurs in favor of one of the parties. Also, replacing a Western defense system with an Arab one requires an Egyptian and Arab effort to lessen Egypt's dependence on the United States and reduce international tension in our area. All this requires a constructive national effort of the first order, for the problem is far too serious to be just a matter of examining issues of the present reality. What is more important is how to face this reality.

Saddam Husayn Warns Against Shelling Basra

JN301648 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1555 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Aug (INA) — President Saddam Husayn has warned against any attempt to strike Basra. He said that anyone who tries to do so will have his hands cut off. President Saddam Husayn added that anyone who tries to strike Basra knows what the price will be and how we will reply to him. During his meeting with a group of citizens from Basra Gover-norate who donated gold and funds in support of the battle today, President Saddam Husayn said that Basra and all the other Iraqi cities will remain secure. He added: Shame on the covetors, the evildoers, and the midgets. Iraq will remain lofty and will continue to champion justice.

President Saddam Husayn said: We are ready to shed our blood indefinitely so that no Iraqi woman is slapped in the face. President Saddam Husayn stressed that every day and every year that passes will increase our determinaion and readiness to continue fighting indefinitely.

President Saddam Husayn explained that it is not out of magnanimity that the Iranians are not striking Basra. When they realized that for every shell they fire we respond with thousands of shells on very vital places which are not necessarily 'Abadan or Al-Muhammarah [Khorramshahr] but on other places they know, they began to hesitate to shell Basra, Mandali, or other cities.

President Saddam Hsuayn said that Khomeyni has bad luck; otherwise, he would have been guided toward the road of peace. He added: Khomeyni has no luck, no conscience, no judgment and the evildoers who incited him to wage war in 1980 did not want this war to stop in 1982. The war, however, will be halted with the determination and steadfastness of the men and through Khomeyni's impotence.

President Saddam Husayn stressed that the Iranians' situation is deteriorating year after year. Their situation now is worse than it was 1 year ago. President Saddam Husayn said that the forces who oppose Khomeyni's regime inside Iran are active and we know how matters proceed there and we are well informed about what is taking place there even among the men of his regime.

President Saddam Husayn explained that those of Khomeyni's men who now do not dare to call for a halt to the war in a direct manner, despite the fact that they are against its prolongation, will not remain silent for long. The situation is bound to explode some day.

Communique on 29-30 August Military Activities

JN301604 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1530 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Aug (INA) — An Iraqi military communique has put the Iranian forces' losses at seven killed and many wounded in the central and northern sectors. The communique issued by the Armed Forces General Command here today on military operations during the past 24 hours said that Iranian forces in this [northern] sector lost one vehicle and one stockpile of hardware and another vehicle in the central sector. The communique also mentioned that Iraqi fighter aircraft today attacked enemy military targets in the northern sector, scoring direct and effective hits and inflicting heavy losses on the enemy's guns, troop concentrations, and military hardware. All the Iraqi fighter aircraft returned safely to base. The communique added that the Iraqi forces destroyed one infantry position east of Basra and two stockpiles of hardware in the Maysan sector. The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 1,202 issued by the Armed Forces General Command:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Supported by the unswerving determinatton of the lofty Iraqis and their unabating enthusiasm to protect the sovereignty of the beloved homeland and the future of this nation, the victorious Iraqi fighters continue their valiant activities against the forces of the rancorous and suspect Khomeyniite enemy. The results yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. Our forward units pounded an enemy troop concentration opposite their positions in the northern sector of the battlefield with all types of weapons, killing three, wounding many, and destroying one vehicle and one stockpile of hardware.

2. The valiant aircraft of our Air Force today attacked enemy military targets in the northern sector of the battlefield, scoring direct and effective hits and inflicting heavy losses on the enemy's guns, troop concentrations, and military hardware. All our fighter aircraft returned safely to base.

3. Our forward units shelled an enemy vehicle and a group of enemy elements opposite their positions in the central sector of the battlefield. Our forces set fire to the enemy vehicle and destroyed it and also killed three enemy elements.

4. One was killed and one infantry position was destroyed east of Basra.

5. Two stockpiles of hardware were destroyed in the Maysan operational sector.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 30 August 1983

Minister on Oil Reserves, Expanding Pipeline

JN301224 Baghdad INA in English 1132 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Text] Baghdad, August 30, INA — Iraqi Oil Minister Qasim Ahmad Taqi was quoted Tuesday by *Ath-Thawrah* daily as saying that new oil reserves have been discovered by Iraqi technical cadres bringing the country's proven reserve to a total of 59 billion barrels. Mr Taqi said the semi-proven reserve is now estimated at 46 billion barrels with other 40 billion barrels expected reserves. "Iraq's oil reserve will reach 100 billion barrels and exploration operations are continued to assess oil possibilities," the Iraqi minister added.

On Iranian threats to bomb the Iraqi oil pipeline through Turkey, the minister stated that Iran is unable to destroy this pipeline because it is hundreds of kilometres from the borders. He said Iraq is expanding the capacity of the said pipeline to one million barrles a day by the end of next April.

Azeri Broadcast on U.S. Aid to Khomeyni, Iran

GF291854 Baghdad International Service in Azeri 1800 GMT 28 Aug 83

[Unattributed commentary: "The Pro-American Mullah Khomeyni Regime"]

[Excerpts] Dear listeners, the last few days of the rule of Reza Shah Pahlavi witnessed the zealous peak attained by the antiexploitationist movement of the Iranian peoples for their liberation. This major development greatly intimidated international imperialism, particularly the United States.

Khomeyni returned to Iran after the shah of Iran had fled that country. He placed the crown of the Persian Empire on his head by describing the bloody struggle the Iranian peoples waged for many long years as an Islamic Revolution. Thereafter, Khomeyni resorted to numerous fraudulent moves behind the veil of Islam. At the beginning he (?even claimed) that the United States supported Islam. The truth, however, was different. It was the United States which brought impostor Khomeyni to Iran. It was U.S. imperialism which forced the shah of Iran, who had failed to crush the revolution, to leave Iran.

What Khomeyni, who held the Iranian regime in his hand through the conspiracy hatched by U.S. imperialism, did as the first thing was to open the doors of the prisons and issue death warrants with a view to ridding himself of the officers of the Iranian Armed forces. He created the Revolution Guards Corps in order to divide the Iranian Armed Forces into pieces. And, with a view to keeping the Iranian peoples occupied and realizing the plans of U.S. imperialism, he began an aggressive war against revolutionary Iraq.

After seeing the tense state of affairs created by treacherous Khomeyni, the Iranian Armed Forces moved against the Khomeyni regime in order to rid themselves of the danger of being destroyed and crushed. The last of the military moves was the one by General Asghari. The Iranian troops rejected the prolongation of the war. They understood that the war was being escalated by the United States through Khomeyni.

This war is one of aggression. It has been kindled to gain the Iranian people revenge on the shah, weaken Iraq, which is a powerful and progressive country in the region, and safeguard the interests of the United States and Israel in the Middle East.

The United States is supplying military and financial aid in order to safeguard the Khomeyni regime. The strengthening of the executioner Khomeyni regime in Iran creates a very favorable opportunity for the United States to achieve the targets of its policies in the region. It is a fact that through U.S. aid each and every revolutionary movement against the Khomeyni regime is being crushed and destroyed.

Nevertheless, Khomeyni and the United States, which is the patron of the pro-Khomeyni elements, must understand that no matter how closely this bloody regime is aligned with the United States, it will wither away and become extinct. The unity between the people of Iran and the Iranian Armed Forces is proof of such a victory.

Baghdad Reports Fire at Baniyas Refinery in Syria

JN301214 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1100 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Text] Damascus — The Voice of Arab Syria has announced that a large fire broke out at the Baniyas refinery in Syria last Thursday night and has been raging there ever since. All attempts to put out the fire have failed.

The Baniyas refinery is currently used to process the crude oil which is offered by the Iranian regime to the Syrian regime in appreciation of their treasonous acts against Iraq, acts such as the decision which was made by Hafiz al-Asad preventing the passage of Iraqi oil through Syrian territory.

All indications are that the fire at the refinery which was previously used to process Iraqi oil was deliberate despite the top secrecy which surrounds the investigation.

King Husayn Meets With Saudi Foreign Minister

JN301938 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at An-Nadwah Palace this afternoon His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the Saudi foreign minister, who conveyed to his majesty a message from His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz related to various developments in the Arab and international arenas, with emphasis on the situation in the occupied Arab territories and current developments in Lebanon.

The meeting was attended by His Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn al-Husayn, the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, the commander in chief of the Jrodanian Armed Forces, the information minister and acting foreign minister, and the Saudi ambassador in Amman.

Crown Prince Hassan Receives Richard Murphy

JN301640 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hassan received in his office this morning Richard Murphy, assistant U.S. secretary of state for Middle East affairs. The situation in the Middle East in general, and in the occupied Arab territories in particular, was reviewed.

The meeting was attended by the U.S. ambassador in Amman.

Meeting With Army Chief

JN301242 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Text] Staff Lieutenant General Ash-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces, received in his office this morning Richard Murphy, assistant U.S. secretary of state.

The meeting was attended by the U.S. ambassador in Amman.

Prince Hasan Receives Visiting U.S. Senator

JN291616 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1415 GMT 29 Aug 83

[Text] Amman, 29 Aug (PETRA) — Crown Prince Hasan received at his office this morning U.S. Senator Paul Trible, who is currently visiting Jordan. His highness reviewed with the guest the situation in the region in general and the situation in the occupied Arab territories in particular.

President Contacted by Saudi Minister on Situation

NC311104 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1053 GMT 31 Aug 83

[Text] We have just received the following: Saudi Information Minister Lieutenant General 'Ali ash-Sha'ir has telephoned President Amin al-Jumayyil and told him that His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz charged him with contacting the president after hearing about the painful news that Beirut and the eastern and western suburbs have been subjected to violent shelling.

Minister Ash-Sha'ir added that King Fahd asked him to convey his sympathies to the Lebanese and his concern over the resumption of the fighting.

He further said that the resources of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia are at the disposal of Lebanon to help it in its ordeal on the basis of the continuous Saudi role of supporting Lebanon and its sovereignty and of mediating to help Lebanon emerge from its pains.

President Al-Jumayyil thanked Lt Gen ash-Sha'ir for the sympathy expressed by His Majesty King Fahd and praised the role which Saudi Arabia is playing to help Lebanon. He affirmed that efforts are being exerted to tackle the situation.

Al-Jumayyil, Al-Wazzan Briefed at Defense Ministry

NC310610 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 31 Aug 83

[Text] The Voice of Lebanon has learned that President Amin al-Jumayyil and Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan left for the Defense Ministry at 0200 today, where they were briefed on the progress of the military operations.

At 0100, Ambassador Richard Fairbanks, assistant to U.S. presidential envoy Robert McFarlane, arrived at the Presidential Palace in B'abda, where he held a meeting with Prime Minister al-Wazzan and Foreign Minister Salim during which the security and political situations were discussed.

U.S. Embassy Shelled; Marines Under Fire

NC302029 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2025 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Text] A spokesman for the U.S. Embassy in Beirut has said that the embassy came under successive attacks with rockets and machineguns.

The Marine positions in the Faculty of Sciences in Ash-Shuwayfat came under shelling in the evening. The Marine forces returned the fire.

In the meantime, the French Embassy said that four French soldiers were killed and seven others were wounded when the embassy came under artillery attack.

Cabinet Discusses Beirut Security Situation

NC301237 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1214 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Telephone dispatch by correspondent Joe Sa'dah at Presidential Palace in Beirut — live]

[Text] The Cabinet meeting ended approximately 15 minutes ago. Information Minister Roger Shaykhani made the following statement following the meeting:

Today's Cabinet session was devoted to reviewing the security situation. It heard a report by the Army commander on the plan for the return of the military forces to their positions after completing the security task they carried out in the southern suburbs yesterday and their duties in Beirut.

The Cabinet asked the ministries concerned and the committee for the development of the southern suburbs to carry out the works, repairs, and reforms necessitated by the social conditions.

The Cabinet contemplated the security situation in West Beirut and studied the reasons that led to the disturbance of security there. It also acquainted itself with the arrangements that the Army undertook in cooperation with the Internal Security Forces, and charged the two forces with adopting the measures guaranteeing the restoration of security and stability, the protection of the citizens and their property, and the termination of the armed manifestations.

Liaison Body Discusses Security Situation

NC301331 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Telephone dispatch by correspondent Joe Sa'dah from Presidential Palace in Beirut — live]

[Text] The Higher Liaison Body's Political Committee held a meeting at the Presidential Palace at noon today. The discussions centered on the security situation in the country. The director of operations at the Army Command explained the details and objectives of the operation that the Lebanese Army carried out yesterday in the southern suburb to establish security. The Higher Liaison Body's Political Committee issued the following statement at the end of the meeting:

The Higher Liaison Body held its periodical meeting at the Presidential Palace at noon today in the presence of the charges d'affaires of the embassies of the United States, France, Italy, and Britain, as well as of the commanders of the multinational force and the Lebanese officers group.

Staff Major General Habib Faris chaired the meeting on behalf of the president of the republic. At the outset of the meeting, the director of the military operations at the Presidential Palace submitted a report on the security situation in the area. He concentrated on the situation in Beirut and the southern suburb and on the indiscriminate shelling to which the populated quarters were exposed, as well as on the current attacks on the Internal Security Forces positions in the Al-Biqa', the restriction of the freedom of its elements, and the paralyzing of their activities.

The Army Command's operations director then explained the details and objectives of the operations that the Lebanese Army carried out in the southern suburbs to establish security. He also explained the provocations and sniping to which the Army is being currently subjected by some gunmen who have taken up positions in populated buildings. The Army Command stopped its military operations at noon yesterday.

Staff Major General Faris then briefed the conferees on the authority's current efforts and measures to restore normalcy and to guarantee the citizens' safety. At the end of the session, he conveyed condolences on the martyrs of the multinational force in the name of the president of the republic.

Salam Meeting Ends; Statement Issued

NC301918 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Text] The meeting which was held in the house of Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam in Al-Musaytibah this evening has ended. [Former] Prime Minister al-Huss released a statement in the name of the conferees in which he pointed to the tragic deterioration the capital, its southern suburbs, and the mountain area are experiencing. He said that the conferees pondered the suffocating atmosphere which reached its climax in the explosion that has been taking place today. They believe that the political option is the only option available for rescuing Lebanon from the dangerous tragedy in which it is wallowing and that there is no room for a security option without a political understanding.

The statement added: The conferees emphasized the need for continuing action to liberate Lebanon from the Israeli occupation and to achieve the withdrawal of all the non-Lebanese forces from Lebanon. They believe that the unity of the Lebanese people and their tenacity are the best weapons to achieve this objective on which no two Lebanese differ. The conferees agreed to continue to follow the situation closely and to hold other meetings whenever the need arises.

Agreement Reached on Withdrawal of Gunmen

NC302025 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Excerpts] [Former] Prime Minister Salim al-Huss visited the Presidential Palace and met with President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil and Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan. They reviewed the current developments. Several ideas and solutions were studied to achieve a political remedy to the security situation that will restore calm to the southern suburbs and Beirut and ensure the withdrawal of the gunmen and the deployment of the Army in Beirut and its suburbs to control security, restore calm, and help the citizens. Several views were studied during the meeting. These views were then formulated in a draft formula which Prime Minister al-Huss communicated to the Islamic leaders who were meeting in the house of [former] Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam.

Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam made a statement to us this evening in which he explained the views which Prime Minister al-Huss had communicated to the conferees as well as to [Amal movement leader] Lawyer Nabih Birri.

In his statement to us, Prime Minister Salam said that Prime Minister al-Huss presented to the conferees the agreement reached between him and the officials. He also said that Prime Minister al-Huss and Nabih Birri were in agreement. The conference was also in agreement on the contents. Contacts were made with Birri to implement this agreement in coordination with the Army officials.

Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam added that the agreement which was presented by Prime Minister al-Huss is as follows:

After the intensive and extensive contacts which were made with the various national leaders, an understanding was reached to withdraw all the gunmen and eliminate all the armed manifestations from the streets of Beirut and its suburbs. These leaders have also emphasized their commitment to cooperate with the Lebanese Army to implement the national duty assigned to the Army to control security and consolidate stability.

The government is continuing its endeavors to secure everything that is necessary to establish the state's authority over every inch of the land from which the Israeli forces withdraw by creating the atmosphere that will enable the Lebanese Army to carry out its responsibilities in a complete and effective manner on the basis of an understanding that will strengthen national unity and boost the authorities' endeavors in their quest to liberate all Lebanon and restore security and stability to it.

That was the text of the agreement which Prime Minister al-Huss presented to the conferees who met this afternoon in Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam's house.

Prime Ministers al-Huss and Salam are continuing contacts with lawyer Birri and the other political and spiritual leaders in an attempt to control the security situation completely and to implement what came in the agreement announced by Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam which Prime Minister al-Huss presented to the conferees today.

AFP Reports Muslim Leaders Reach Agreement

OW302330 Hong Kong AFP in English 2320 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Text] Beirut, Aug. 30 (AFP) — Four government ministers and several Lebanese Moslem leaders reached agreement tonight on a peace plan for Beirut, which has been torn by fierce battles for the last three days, former Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam said.

Nabih Birri, leader of the Shi'ite Amal Movement, which has been fighting the Lebanese Army, was among the Moslem leaders to approve the agreement.

Mr Salam said the agreement, to reinforce national unity, included the withdrawal of all armed forces and the end of military operations in the capital.

The militias would cooperate with the Army in restoring security in Beirut, and the government would pursue efforts to control the areas evacuated by foreign troops.

A communique from the meeting which reached agreement said the "frightening deterioration" in Beirut and the "dramatic decline" of the situation in the mountains were due to political problems and that no solution, other than political, could be found.

Mr Baha ad-Din al-Bisat, 'Adil Hamiyyah, 'Adnan Nuruwwah and Ibrahim Halawi, ministers of housing, finance, health and trade respectively and all Moslem, were at the meeting. Former Prime Minister Salim al-Huss joined the talks after seeing President Amin al-Jumayyil and present Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan.

Several Moslem deputies attended with a representative of Walid Junblatt's Progressive Socialist Party. Mr Birri was later contacted and approved.

Birri Meets Mufti To Discuss Situation

NC301820 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Text] His Eminence Shaykh Hasan Khalid, mufti of the Lebanese Republic, received Amal Movement leader Lawyer Nabih Birri at 1315 in the mufti's office. The meeting was attended by Kamal Shatila, secretary general of the Union of People's Working Forces and Dr Samir Sabbagh, leader of the Independent National Grouping. The discussions during the meeting dealt with the general situation in the country and the latest developments.

After the meeting, Lawyer Nabih Birri stated: Our visit was to seek advice and to receive the blessing of Mufti of the Republic Shaykh Hasan Khalid. Certainly, it was a good occasion for us to discuss all the security and political affairs within the framework of the sermon which the mufti delivered on 'Id al-Fitr. The agreement between us was complete. We will continue our contacts.

Mufti Khalid stated: We are still in the process of holding meetings with all the political functionaries. We will spare no effort to make every endeavor conducive to harmony among the Lebanese so as to preserve the unity of Lebanon. This is what we seek to achieve and we implore God to grant us success.

Dr Samir Sabbagh stated: All the meetings that were held today were to seriously deal with the situation that prevailed in Beirut and its southern suburbs as a result of the popular wrath which has mounted during the past weeks and months. This meeting resulted in our agreement on the need for the restoration of legitimacy through mutual agreement with the parties concerned so that all the sons of Greater Beirut and its areas may live under one just legitimate authority, and be treated equally and similarly under the law.

The NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent has learned that the conferees emphasized the need for the restoration of legitimacy to the western area of Beirut, but this matter requires a specific arrangement. It was agreed that Lawyer Birri will declare at his press conference at 1800 today that the Islamic and national stand rests on Mufti Khalid who will issue a statement and that a committee will be formed to tackle all these matters.

Contacts among the spiritual and political leaders intensified today. Mufti Khalid, Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams ad-din, deputy chairman of the Higher Shi'ite Islamic Council, 'Abd al-Amir Qabalan, Ja'farite Mufti, and Prime Minsiter Sa'ib Salam participated in these contacts. Prime Minister Salam contacted President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil.

Former President Camille Sham'un also contacted Mufti Khalid and Prime Minister Salam and discussed with them the political and security situation. President Sham'un said that action by the spiritual and political leaders as well as by the Army in safeguarding the citizens and ensuring their comfort, is certain to end the crisis.

President Sham'un had earlier chaired a meeting of the Higher Council of the National Liberal Party.

Birri Urges Gunmen's Withdrawal

NC302158 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2145 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Text] Violent rocket and artillery shelling is now being directed against all Beirut quarters, including the southern and eastern suburbs, as well as the Al-Matn coast and Kasrawan. For an hour now, shells have been falling heavily on many Beirut quarters, particularly in the southern and eastern suburbs and on the Al-Matn coast. The shelling is also violently directed against the Army positions in Beirut and in the southern suburb. Shells also fell on the Al-Mazra'ah and Al-Barbur locality as well as on the perimeter of the residence of Amal leader Lawyer Nabih Birri, who a short while ago, denied that his residence was shelled. He gave the following statement to our radio:

[Begin Birri recording] I affirm that the shelling that was directed against the Al-Mazra'ah area where my house is located was aimed against the accord whose march has begun. The shelling is also aimed against my statement in which I called for the withdrawal of the gunmen from all the streets. This shelling is also aimed at obstructing this accord and this march. This shelling makes me more persistent to reiterate the statement and I ask all my brother activists and the national forces to abide by the statement. Thank you. [end recording]

Damascus on Nabih Birri's Press Conference

JN310743 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0315 GMT 31 Aug 83

[Text] Leader of the Lebanese Amal Movement Nabih Birri has demanded the immediate resignation of Shafiq al-Wazzan's government and the formation of a Lebanese Government that represents the various nationalist forces. At a press conference at his house yesterday, Birri announced a program of reconciliation calling for solving the security problems in Beirut and its suburbs through national accord, considering the mountain issue a national Lebanese issue, and dissolving the Phalangist militias. He also demanded the formation of a national committee to supervise the official media and to affirm the right of the nationalist forces to participate in the political decisionmaking.

Birri called for returning the displaced people to their original areas, abolishing political sectarianism in public administration, amending the electoral laws, and dividing governmental responsibility.

Birri said that the Amal Movement will continue to fight the sectarian government army until its demands for reform are met. He called on all the Lebanese nationalist forces to stand united in order to preserve the Arabism, independence, and unity of Lebanon.

Israeli Withdrawals Reported in 'Alayh Area

NC301245 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1228 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Live dispatch by unidentified correspondent from editorial room]

[Text] In the security domain in Beirut, the Army positions in the post office area as well as the guard of the Chamber of Deputies building on An-Najman square are coming under automatic weapons fire. A clash is now in progress in this area. Furthermore, tension continues to prevail around Burj al-Murr. Sporadic gunfire bursts and RPG rocket fire are also being heard.

With regard to the situation in another field, that is, the Israeli withdrawals, a security source a short while ago told us that the Israeli forces have withdrawn from the villages of Kayfun, Baysur, and Suq al-Gharb in the 'Alayh district. These forces are now grouping near the Hajjar Hotel in Suq al-Gharb. The Israeli forces vacated their position in the Al-Jayah township this morning. To this time, no additional information is available about these Israeli moves. However, the security report I just cited affirmed to us that the villages of Kayfun, Baysur, and Suq al-Gharb have been evacuated. As I have said, the Israeli forces are now grouped in the vicinity of the Hajjar Hotel.

Further Report

NC301303 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1237 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Telephone interview with unidentified correspondents from the editorial room by unidentified announcer — live]

[Text] [Question] Yes, what new occurrence do you have to signal?

[Answer] Muhammad, further to the supplementary report that we broadcast a short while ago on the Israeli forces' withdrawal from the villages of Kayfun, Baysur, and Suq al-Gharb in the 'Alayh district, we have just been informed that these forces, as we have already mentioned, have grouped in the vicinity of the Hajjar Hotel, and that the withdrawal has been frozen. Therefore, the Israeli forces have not yet withdrawn from the 'Alayh area. Nevertheless, they have vacated the three villages that we mentioned a short while ago.

[Question] Yes.

[Answer] These forces are still grouped in the Suq al-Gharb area near the Hajjar Hotel.

[Question] Yes.

[Answer] A report received just a short while ago from Israel states that Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin who, as is already known, has decided to resign his post, has agreed to grant another respite of 3 or 4 days for the deployment of the Israeli forces, or theri withdrawal from the mountain. This report has been broadcast by the IDF Radio. This radio also said that this decision followed the talks that were held this morning between Begin and U.S. envoy McFarlane.

Therefore, withdrawal has been frozen for a period ranging from 3 to 4 days. It is known that McFarlane will return to Beirut this evening to continue the contacts he is holding with the Lebanese Government. Therefore, I sum up again: The Israeli withdrawal, which seemed to have begun partially from the villages of Kayfun, Baysur, and Suq al-Gharb in the 'Alayh district, has been frozen. Begin has given a respite of 3 to 4 days to U.S. envoy, McFarlane so that the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from the mountain could subsequently be reconsidered.

[Question] Is this everything?

[Answer] Yes, this is everything.

[Question] Thank you.

VOL Updates Security Situation 30 August

NC302238 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2218 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Text] The Lebanese Army tonight implemented the task which it has been assigned. The Army is intensively and effectively present in the following areas: The port, Noramde, the U.S. Embassy, the military swimming beach, and up to the hotels area. The army took up positions on the roofs of the following hotels: Vendome, San George, Holiday Inn, Hilton, and Phoenicia. In addition it also took up position in the Burj al-Murr area.

The Lebanese Army reinforced its positions on the Fu'ad Shihab Bridge up to the Mahallat as-Sana'i area, the Bank of Lebanon, and the Ministry of Information. Communication lines between all these positions are safe.

Our correspondent has learned that the Lebanese Army checked two attacks by the socialists from the Ash-Shuwayfat direction. They were attempting to enter into the southern suburb. Clashes are now raging in the Government Palace.

VOL Claims Palestinians Involved in Beirut Fighting

NC311043 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 31 Aug 83

[Text] Tension has escalated and the Syrian artillery has continued its barbaric shelling of peaceful residential areas. Grad missiles and artillery rounds are falling on the areas of Jumhur, Al-Fayyadiyah, Al-Yarzah, Al-Hadath, Sodeco, and Al-Ashrafiyah, as well as the northern Al-Matn coast and some villages in the Kasrawan district.

Meanwhile, the Lebanese Army continues its operation to control security in West Beirut. In its advance from the direction of the port, the Army has reached the hotels district, Al-Qantari, the As-Sana'i', and the Information Ministry building. Security sources have told the Voice of Lebanon that the bodies of Palestinians and Communists who participated in the battles have been found and that a number of Palestinian gunmen have been arrested.

Army Begins Redeployment in Beirut

NC302002 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Text] Military sources stated that in implementation of the decision made by the Cabinet today, the Army has begun redeploying in Beirut and that a plan of action is being currently implemented in order to restore calm to the quarters and to ensure the safety and confort of the citizens after 2 days of disturbances.

The same sources said that the Army is abiding by the cease-fire where the gunmen observe the cease-fire but it is retaliating and defending its positions where it is attacked.

Army Continues Deployment

NC310633 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 31 Aug 83

[Text] Beirut and the southern suburb woke up this morning to the reveberation of explosions and continuous mad shelling. The explosions, which covered all axes, are still being heard and are leaving more victims and material damage.

Shells have fallen on Al-Ashrafiyah, [word indistinct] bridge and Jall ad-Dib-az-Zalqa highway. The artillery shelling covers both the eastern and western parts of Beirut.

According to security sources a short while ago, the Lebanese Army has reinforced its positions in Burj al-Murr and confirmed its control of the Phonecia Hotel. The Army is now advancing toward Al-Barbir area within the framework of its mission aimed at restoring security and stability to the capital. The Army is continuing its deployment in all parts of Beirut to bring the security situation under control, protect the citizens, restore quiet and compel the gunmen to withdraw. The Army forces are advancing on the Cornich al-Mazra'ah axis. They have passed beyond Abu Shakir area to establish contact with the Amir Bashir barracks, which is still under pressure.

On the coastal line, the Army forces established contact with its forces deployed in [words indistinct] in the direction of Burj Hammud. The Army's positions are being now subjected to a concentrated artillery shelling. The Army is returning the fire but it is avoiding the residential quarters and populated areas.

In the meantime, shells are falling on several quarters in Greater Beirut, the eastern and southern suburbs, and a number of coastal villages in Al-Matn. The Army forces are still continuing their deployment in the positions and quarters specified for them.

Redeployment Completed

NC310842 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0834 GMT 31 Aug 83

[Text] We have received the following: The Lebanese Army is continuing its advance in the various quarters of Beirut to restore security and calm. The redeployment has been completed and the forces are now linked together. The citizens are persistenly urged to stay in shelters and safe places during the advance of the Army, which is being subjected to the gunmen's fire and which is returning this fire.

Army Imposes Curfew in Beirut, Issues Statement

NC310546 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 31 Aug 83

[Text] This morning the Lebanese Army resumed its redeployment to control security in Greater Beirut in implementation of the Cabinet decisions, which entrusted the Army and the Internal Security Forces with the task of maintaining security in Beirut.

The Army's guidance directorate has issued the following statement: During the Army's operation to reestablish security in the southern suburbs, the Army Command noticed that some foreign quarters were trying to return the situation to the painful years of the war, especially the years 1975 and 1976. These quarters carried out the following: They occupied tall buildings with the aim of sniping and terrifying the citizens. They prepared and set up artillery guns and various weapons with the aim of carrying out mutual shelling between East and West Beirut. They set up armed roadblocks in some streets and carried out checks of identity cards. They attacked the Army barracks and positions.

Proceeding from its belief in the principle of the unity of Beirut and Lebanon and of protecting them, the Army Command acted with resolve to prevent the return of the combatants to the contact lines and prevent the wars of others on Lebanon's territory. To preserve the unity of the city, orders were issued to the Army to occupy certain points, which were the reason for the partition of Beirut in 1975 and 1976. Therefore, the Army Command has decided the following: To impose a curfew in the areas of the Army's operations as of the time this statement is broadcast, to open fire on any armed person without prior warning, and to deal with the sources of fire very firmly.

3,000 Shells Fall on Beirut, Other Areas

NC310600 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 31 Aug 83

[Text] The Syrian artillery has returned to its known game. Following a crazy night of indiscriminate shelling of Beirut, Al-Matn, and Kasrawan, the residential areas in the Al-Matn coast woke up to the sounds of exploding.Syrian shells, especially in the Dik al-Mihdi area. Some of the Syrian shells also fell on Al-Ashrafiyah.

Military sources have reported that over 3,000 shells fell on Beirut and the other Lebanese areas between yesterday and this morning, causing casualties and extensive material damage.

Al-Murabitun To Confront Army Operations

NC311106 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 31 Aug 83

[Text] A telephone conversation took place between Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan and brother Ibrahim Qulaylat, who affirmed the firm stand of the Independent Nasirite Movement — Al-Murabitun — in confronting the military operations which are destroying the quarters of the capital and the southern suburb and the houses of their inhabitants.

Meanwhile, Lawyer Nabih Birri, leader of the Amal Movement, has affirmed the stand of the Amal Movement, Al-Murabitun, and the Progressive Socialist Party in withdrawing all armed elements. This has not been adhered to by the Army, which has continued its heavy and destructive bombardment of the residential quarters in Beirut and the suburb.

Security Forces' Duties Expanded To Restore Order

NC310957 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0944 GMT 31 Aug 83

[Text] A security source has confirmed that the source of the shelling to which Beirut is being subjected is the artillery emplacements in Upper al-Matn, and that in returning the gunmen's fire, the Army does not use heavy artillery but medium-weapons fire.

An official source has stated that orders have been given to the Internal Security Forces to adopt the necessary measures in order to resume their duties and expand the scope of these duties as part of the process of restoring order to Beirut.

Marine Positions at Beirut Airport Shelled

NC301725 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1720 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Text] The Marine force spokesman has said that the U.S. positions on the airport perimeter came under rocket shelling. He added that the Marine unit was compelled to return the fire, destroying two armed positions in the Ash-Shuwayfat and the Faculty of Sciences area. Cobra helicopters dropped warning flares over 'Aytat and Ash-Shuwayfat.

Marines, Aircraft Carrier Eisenhower on Alert

NC301902 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1855 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Text] U.S. Marine spokesman, Bob Jordan, in a telephone contact with our correspondent, said that the Marines have been placed on maximum alert, including the fleet units and aircraft carrier *Eisenhower*.

The Syrian shelling is still being directed against all areas in Greater Beirut, particularly the old markets area. The Faculty of Sciences and Al-Murayjah area are also being subjected to Syrian-socialist shelling.

Sources Deny Carrier To Withdraw Marines

NC301842 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Text] Diplomatic sources have stated that the U.S. nuclear aircraft carrier *Dwight Eisenhower* is now sailing in the sea off the Lebanese shores. It is carrying sophisticated electronic monitoring equipment, and big fighter planes.

The sources said that the presence of this aircraft carrier off Lebanese shores confirms the continued support for the role of the Marines who are operating within the multinational force in Beirut.

The same sources said that the presence of the U.S. aircraft carrier increases the capabilities of the Marines who are subjected to artillery shelling from time to time. These electronic and deterrent capabilities indicate the U.S. readiness to support its force in Lebanon.

The sources denied that the presence of the U.S. aircraft carrier is for the purpose of ensuring the withdrawal of the Marines from Beirut, as some sources have rumored. The sources said: On the contrary, the presence of the carrier is to support their presence.

Marine Helicopter Destroys 'Socialist' Positions

NC301553 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Excerpt] Here is the latest security report: Fierce battles are now raging in the Faculty of Sciences up to the Bir al-'Abid area. Artillery shelling from 'Alayh, and intermittent shelling is being directed against 'Ayn ar-Rummanah from the 'Aramun ridges. Flares are being dropped over Suq al-Gharb. Our correspondent said that telephone contacts have taken place from Walid Junblatt's residence and from Nabih Birri with Abu Yahya, th Amal military official in the mountain. During the contact, the Amal official said that his troops are in a difficult situation and sought help from the Syrian artillery, which actually started shelling the Lebanese Army positions and peaceful quarters.

We now have our editorial office on the line:

[Begin telephone report] 'Ayn ar-Rummanah area is still subjected to indiscriminate artillery shelling at the rate of one shell every minute. The shelling also covered Al-Mukallas, Furn ash-Shubbak and Sinn al-Fil.

We have just received the following report: The Marine forces have destroyed six socialist positions and a Marine Cobra is now overflying 'Aytat and Ash-Shuwayfat and is dropping flares.

In another development, the French forces have vacated their positions in the Lycee and the Patriarchate areas. [end telephone report]

AFP: French Embassy in Beirut Hit by Rocket Fire

NC301612 Paris AFP in English 1600 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Excerpt] Beirut, Aug 30 (AFP) — Three French legionnaires were among four people wounded today when the French Embassy here was hit by rocket fire, witnesses said.

One of two shells to hit the embassy fell on the building housing the legionnaires and a fire broke out inside the embassy, the witnesses added.

Two French Soldiers Killed

NC301735 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1725 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Text] The French Embassy spokesman has said that two soldiers of the French unit were killed and that six others were wounded during the shelling of the French Embassy.

Further Report on Attack on UK Troops

LD301141 London Press Association in English 1037 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Excerpt] British troops in Beirut came under attack from rifle and rocket-propelled grenades this morning.

It was the first time the British contingent in the four nation peacekeeping force in the Lebanese capital has come under fire. One was injured in the attack in the Galerie Sim'an area of the city near the green line dividing the Muslim west from Christian east side of the city, according to Major Stuart Bennett, a spokesman for the British forces.

The attack came at around 9 am local time as a patrol led by the force's commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel David Roberts, was on a routine journey to the British Embassy.

Maj Bennett said Lieut Col Roberts had left the Hadath base of the British troops — mostly men from A squadron, 1st Queen's Dragoon Guards — avoiding the Burj al-Barajinah area of the city, the heart of much of Beirut's violence in the last two days.

Amal, Communists Try To Obtain Palestinian Arms

NC291143 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 29 Aug 83

[Text] Diplomatic sources have told the Voice of Lebanon that contacts have taken place between the Amal Movement, the Communist Party, and the Communist Action Organization on the one hand and the Palestinians on the other in a bid to obtain information about the arms depots that were left behind by the Palestinian organizations prior to their departure from West Beirut and the southern suburbs.

The same sources added that the contacts have failed because all pertinent maps and the lists of contents of the depots are still in the possession of Yasir 'Arafat, who, upon discussing the issue with him, refused to hand over the depots to any side. He said: The day might come when we shall be in need of these arms.

Socialist Party Pledges Support to Amal

NC301534 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Text] In a dispatch from Damascus, AFP reports that the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] has emphasized in a statement that it places all its resources at the disposal of the Amal Movement.

The PSP has demanded that the siege imposed on Beirut and its suburbs be lifted and that the Army return to its barracks. The PSP has also demanded that the Army's heavy weapons trained on Greater Beirut and on the mountain be placed in depots.

The PSP has also demanded that the airport and the harbor be declared neutral, that they both be placed under the protection of the multinational force, and that the Army and the Lebanese Forces withdraw from these two areas.

The PSP has also appealed for the formation of a national committee to be entrusted with overseeing the official information media. It has called for the adoption of a positive stand on the appeal that has been made by the National Salvation Front concerning national conciliation, and for laying the groundwork for this conciliation together with a readiness to give a positive reply to everything tending to remove hegemony, to preserve the country's unity and institutions, to restore democracy and liberties, and to unify stances vis-a-vis the outside dangers.

Damascus TV: PSP on Conditions for Accord

JN301946 Damascus Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1740 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Text] The Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] has strongly condemned the dirty war which the Lebanese authorities and the Phalangist gangs are waging in the southern suburb of

Beirut. A PSP spokesman stated today that this war seeks to subdue the southern suburbs and West Beirut, to expel their inhabitants and force them to leave Beirut for other areas, and to redistribute the inhabitants in such a manner that so Phalangists can control them.

The spokesman added that the party which has placed all its resources at the disposal of the Amal Movement is determined to prevent the recurrence of the explosion of citizens by the Phalangists as was the case in An-Nab'ah, Tall az-Za'tar, Dikwanah, Al-Maslakh, and Al-Karantina.

The spokesman stressed that political accord is the only way to solve the Lebanese problem and the security problem.

The spokesman added: We previously extended our hands to begin implementing this accord but the Lebanese regime did not respond because of its total bias. The spokesman expressed hope that the Lebanese regime has learned a lesson from the events of the past 2 days and that it will begin serious preparations for the required accord. The spokesman added that the PSP believes that before starting accord, the Lebanese regime must initiate some steps. Among these steps are the implementation of the 10 points which the PSP proclaimed before the closure of the airport, lifting the siege of the southern suburbs and West Beirut, and the immediate withdrawal of the Army to its barracks, collecting the Army's heavy weapons which are directed against the southern suburbs and the mountain and returning these weapons to their depots, stating that the Lebanese Army's security task comes after political accord, announcing that the area of Beirut International Airport and the Beirut port are a neutral zone under the protection of the Multinational Forces, withdrawing the Army and the Lebanese Forces elements from these two areas, forming a national committee that will supervise over the official information media, adopting a positive stand on the appeal that has been made by the National Salvation Front and laying the groundwork for this accord together with a readiness to respond to everything that will help in removing hegemony, safeguarding the country's unity and institutions, restoring democracy and liberties, and uniting stances against external threats.

VOL Reports Leftist Parties Plan Takeover

NC301318 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Text] It was learned from informed sources that a joint meeting of the military leaders of the Progressive Socialist Party, the Communist Action Party, the Communist Party, the Amal Movement, and the Al-Murabitun was held about a week ago in the Progressive Socialist Party headquarters in 'Alayh. During this meeting, it was decided to carry out an integrated plan to restore the Palestinian-leftist hegemony in Beirut and in all the mountain areas. The plan is summed up in the following provisions:

1. To create battles against the Lebanese Army in Beirut's southern suburb and Wata al-Musaytibah. These battles will be accompanied by a sectarian encitement campaign led by these parties against the authority and the so-called hegemony.

2. To launch a campaign of liquidations against the Christians and to exert pressure on them to force them to leave their homes.

3. To intensify the military operations against the multinational forces in Beirut and its suburbs to force them to stop carrying out their role and to prompt them to leave Lebanon.

4. To launch a decisive battle with the support of Syrian and socialist artillery to link [rabt] Ash-Shuwayfat with the southern suburbs.

5. To mass forces and to prepare to occupy the positions that the Israelis will withdraw from.

6. To organize civil disobedience inside the Palestinian camps.

7. To place the airport under the control of Amal and the socialists.

8. To restore the contact lines to what they were before the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. This would be done by regaining control over West Beirut after taking complete control of the southern suburb.

9. Walid Junblatt would return to Ash-Shuwayfat, Nabih Birri to Burj al-Barajinah, and the other leftist leaders to the various areas of the southern suburbs.

Elements belonging to these parties began removing the weapons they had stored in some religious establishments and in some graves in the Al-Hursh and al-Bashurah areas.

Mustafa 'Izz ad-Din and Antoine Kahlil from the Nationalist Party; Nadim 'Abd as-Samad and Ilyas 'Atallah from the Communist Party; two persons to be named by Nabih Birri from the Amal Movement; and Anwar al-Fatayiri and Dawud Hamid from the Progressive Socialist Party have been entrusted with drawing up the framework of this plan.

Some of the leaders of these parties and organizations have visited some of the Eastern bloc embassies for meetings and discussions about this plan.

Deputy House, Ba'th Center in Tripoli Attacked

NC311026 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1020 GMT 31 Aug 83

[Text] A security report says that the situation in Tripoli is explosive and that the sound of explosions is now reverberating in the areas of Abu Samra, An-Nijmah square, Al-Mina' and Ath-Thaqafah street.

According to reports received from Tripoli a short while ago, an armed attack was waged against the house of Deputy 'Abd al-Majid ar-Rifa'i in the area of Abu Samra. Another attack is being waged against the Ba'th Party's center in Al-Mina'. Large numbers of gunmen are seen in the areas of Az-Zahiriyah, Ath-Thaqafah and Al-Mina'.

Tripoli Cease-Fire Arranged

NC311131 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1103 GMT 31 Aug 83

[Telephone dispatch from radio correspondent in Tripoli — live]

[Text] The political tackling of the security situation in the city of Tripoli has made good progress following the meeting which was held today under the chairmanship of [former] Prime Minister Rashid Karami, in the presence of the coordination committee in the north representing the various party forces and functionaries in the capital of the north. The committee has taken the following decisions:

1. To cease fire effective 1230.

2. To withdraw gunmen to their original centers.

Ba'th party representative Hisham 'Ubayd joined the meeting shortly after it convened under Rashid Karami. The meeting was adjourned at 1200 and will be resumed at 1300. All party leaders, including the 24 October Movement leader representatives of the Ba'th Party and of the Islamic Grouping, will attend the afternoon meeting.

Defense Minister Interviewed on Lebanon Pullout

AU310710 Vienna Domestic Television Service in German 1950 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Interview given by Syrian Defense Minister Major General Mustafa Talas to ORF Reporter Walter Seledec; answers in Arabic with superimposed German translation — recorded, date and place not given]

[Text] [Seledec] If the political conditions in Lebanon do not change, this might lead to a de facto division of Lebanon. But Syria has always said it does not want to stay in Syria forever. Could one not say, in view of this, that Syria's Lebanon policy has failed if the Syrians stay in Lebanon?

[Talas] It is our goal that Lebanon returns to the Arab nation, and that the Israeli occupiers leave the country. We will insist on this. As you know, Israeli politicians are visiting the Lebanese Government. Thus Defense Minister Moshe Arens was recently in Beirut. Thereby the Israelis are influencing Lebanese politics, and for us that is downright interference. As long as Lebanon is under Israel's influence, there will be no solution.

[Seledec] The Israelis want the Syrians to be the first to withdraw from Lebanon. Will this not result eventually in both of them staying in Lebanon?

[Talas] Our situation is different from Israel's — we are an Arab country. We have been requested by the Lebanese Government to come to Lebanon, but the Israelis have occupied Lebanon. Thus it is quite a different thing if we now demand that the Israelis withdraw from Lebanon without any conditions. If they do so, we will also pull out.

[Seledec] Mr Minister, you say you have come to Lebanon at the request of the Lebanese Government, but the Lebanese Government, the Al-Jumayyil Government, now wants the Syrians to leave again. Can you not fulfill this wish of the Al-Jumayyil Government?

[Talas] The point is that we are of the opinion that President Al-Jumayyil cannot implement his political aims because Israeli tanks are deployed a few yards from his residence. We believe that the president therefore cannot act freely, that he is not free in his decisions. But, if the Israeli Army withdraws, we are ready to leave Lebanon within 24 hours.

Damascus Comments on Lebanese Regime's Actions

JN301355 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] In a new chapter, which might not be the most serious one against Lebanon, the Lebanese regime has again been unmasked and has said, through the sound of the Marines' guns, the Phalangists' rifles, and the tracked vehicles of its Army whose patriotism is doubtful, no to a national accord, no to a political dialogue, and no to a meeting with the nationalist, Islamic, and Christian opposition to the Israeli occupation, the sectarian hegemony, and the Phalangist tyranny.

Yesterday, while the southern suburb of Beirut was defending its citizens, nationalist Lebanon, its identity and independence, the conspirator regime confessed once again that it is involved in the partitioning conspiracy and turning Lebanon into a joint Israeli-U.S. protectorate. The Army, which bowed down to the invasion forces, yielded its positions to the Phalangists in the south and in Beirut, opened fire on the citizens in the Lebanese mountain, disarmed west Beirut of the weapons with which it confronted and resisted the invaders. The army which gave a free hand to the Phalangists to commit aggressions in west Beirut, the south, and the mountain, has commited a new massacre in Al-Ashrafiyah, As-Salam, Al-Muraayjah, Bi'r al-'Abd, Al-Laylaki, Ash-Shuwayfat, Al-Hazimiyah, Sodeco, the airport surroundings, Al-Mushayrifah, (Jisr al-Bath), Al-Qantari, and others where the links of the tripartite and sectarian Phalangist-government-U.S. violence evoke one another.

The participation of the U.S. Marines in the aggression and the massacre, proves that the role of these forces is that of an occupation force and a vanguard to the U.S. Rapid Deployment Force. Since the U.S. Administration has failed in carrying out the Israeli agreement which was signed with the Lebanese regime, it is coordinating and conniving today with the Phalangist militias and the Lebanese regime to implement the agreement through striking at the Lebanese nationalist forces to expel them from the south, the mountain, and the Beirut areas in order to eliminate the Lebanese obstacles which hamper the humiliating agreement. This is also proved by the continuation of violence, massacres, and terrorism in Tripoli, the south, and the mountain, and today in Beirut.

If the new developments are signs of a new civil war, of which the nationalist and Islamic forces in Lebanon have warned more than once, then the Lebanese regime is the first one responsible for exploding the situation by ignoring the calls for a national accord, conniving with the Phalangist militias, and by insisting on having its factional army to enter the mountain by force away from the general national will which rejects the Phalangist role which is being played by the Army. Therefore, a more appropriate question is: Why Al-Wazzan's cabinet does not collapse after it has been isolated and is not supported by a sizable national force in Lebanon and after it has turned into a tool in the hands of the president of the B'abda Palace and the U.S. envoys? Why does Al-Wazzan's cabinet not collapse after everyone has realized the reality of the game and the Lebanese regime? Why does it not collapse when the enemy leaders, the guests of the Lebanese front, have unmasked it and consequently deprived it of its Islamic and national covers. One question leads to another.

The Lebanese regime has reiterated that it is commited to its pledges to Israel and the United States through the humiliating contract of submission and through the U.S.-Israeli hegemony over Lebanon and the entire region. What is required today is to expand opposition and organize the nationalist confrontation on all levels to burn those who play with the destiny of the Lebanese people, their homeland, sovereignty, and national unity.

ATH-THAWRAH Raps U.S. Participation in Clashes

JN311019 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0730 GMT 31 Aug 83

[Text] The newspaper *Ath-Thawrah* has described the participation of the U.S. force in the war which the sectarian regime in Beirut is launching against the majority of the Lebanese people as a sharp turning point in the course of the Lebanese crisis and a serious development which will have adverse effects on the Lebanese situation and the region.

The paper adds: What draws the attention is that this participation comes at a time when the crisis of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon has deteriorated to the point where Begin has been compelled to resign. The paper says that the timing of these two incidents is not a coincidence, but an integrated action.

The paper points out that this U.S. stand and the noncommitment to the U.S. Administration's promises to Lebanon prove that the United States will not fulfill its promises or carry out a commitment which would foil the Zionist entity's plan to impose the imperialists control over the Arab region.

The paper says: The participation of the U.S. force in the war against the Lebanese people has intensified the crisis of confidence in the U.S. policy and made it difficult to believe that Washington can play a positive role to settle the Lebanese crisis.

The paper continues: The U.S. decision to participate in the war will not change the situation in favor of the United States and will not enable the Lebanese regime, on which Washington is wagering, to decide the battles militarily against its opponents.

The paper adds: The involvement of the U.S. force in the Lebanese whirlpool proves that the United States has not learned from similar and bitter experiences in the region and other places. This also proves that Washington insists on dealing with the region with the old colonialist mentality despite the fact that circumstances and situations have changed.

Ath-Thawrah concludes: The fate of this U.S. step will not differ from that of the unsuccessful and previous U.S. military adventures, especially since it has become clear that the fires which Washington has created in Lebanon will not end the U.S. political deadlock. On the contrary, this policy and its initiatives will be put in a very critical situation.

AL-BA'TH, TISHRIN Comment on Lebanese Situation

JN310848 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0345 GMT 31 Aug 83

[From the press review]

[Text] In the "Opinion" column under the headline: "Victory for Those Who Defend Right, Homeland, and Self," *Al-Ba'th* says: Events during the past 2 days since the Phalangist militias triggered the trouble in southern Beirut have revealed the dimensions of the well planned plot of the partners in the contract of submission. These events are a practical implementation of what was agreed on in Washington and Tel Aviv and in the Lebanese Front's meetings.

On the brave resistance of the Lebanese nationalists, *Al-Ba'th* says: It seems that the resistance of the hero strugglers and the cohesion between them and the Lebanese masses have prompted the partners in the contract of submission to bring in military forces to face mass resistance. The Marines intervened and the multinational forces followed them. Military landing operations began, as did threats to bring in the U.S. 6th Fleet.

Al-Ba'th concludes by saying: Amid all these events and in view of the fierceness of the national resistance, Reagan was supervising an emergency meeting of the U.S. National Security Council. McFarlane was engaged in secret talks in the occupied territory, and letters were exchanged between the leaders of the Zionist military establishment on the one hand and the leaders of the Phalangists and the Lebanese Front on the other. What does all this coordination mean? Did it come as a result of the detonating spark of the Phalangists or was it the cause of the spark?

In its "Behind the News" column, *Tishrin* says: The current events will decide the future of Lebanon and will leave a deep impression both on the future of the Arab-Israeli struggle and on the future an pan-Arab existence of the nation. It is now urgent that the Lebanese nationalist forces be supported and that the onslaught of the government Army and its Phalangist forces against the people be confronted. This means that the pan-Arab duty calls for solidarity among the struggling forces in order to preserve the Arabism of fraternal Lebanon and to render all kinds of support to the nationalist forces in their noble battle against the plot of sectarian domination, and hence against the threat of partition.

Naturally, Syria will not hesitate to render all means of steadfastness to our brothers the Lebanese nationalists, and we will only be as thye expect us to be.

Oil Minister on Closure of Iraqi Oil Pipeline

PM301247 London Al-Majallah in Arabic 20-26 Aug 83 p 24

[Faysal Hamid Idris report from Jidda: "Syrian Oil Minister: We Will Open Iraqi Oil Pipeline When Political Reasons for Its Closure Are Removed"]

[Excerpts] Syria was the only country to object to the legal measures approved by the oil ministers at the extraordinary OAPEC ministerial conference which met in At-Ta'if last week. The oil ministers approved a bill on the proceedings of OAPEC's Judiciary body unanimously, with the exception of Syria, which expressed "strong" reservations. The objection came as a result of an Iraqi complaint against Syria for closing the Iraqi oil pipeline across its territory to the Mediterranean, which used to carry 1.2 million barrels per day of Iraqi crude oil.

AL-Majallah interviewed Syrian Oil Minister 'Abd al-Jabbar Ad-Dahhak and asked him about the reasons for his country's stand. He said: "The stopping of the pumping of Iraqi crude oil across Syrian territory is a political problem that cannot be solved by OAPEC's judiciary body. The pipeline will remain closed until the political reasons that led to its closure are removed."

The OAPEC ministers concluded their meeting quickly, only half an hour after it began. It was announced that OAPEC had agreed to set up an Arab judiciary body to deal with legal disputes between OAPEC member states and international oil companies.

The Syrian minister said that the Syrian attitude "is not confined only to the problem of the oil pipeline but also concerns legal objections." Ad-Dahhak described these objections as "secondary matters, but important for the functions of the judiciary body." He said that Syria supports the idea of a judiciary body and submitted certain proposals regarding its functions, but the ministers approved some of the proposals and ignored others, "which we consider to be the most important proposals." The Syrian minister said that Syria objected to one clause which says "the judge has a right to reject a decision without giving a reason for doing so." He said that Syria objected to the appointment of "any judge" to look into a particular case, particularly in a case concerning Syria and Iraq, where the judge should be neither Syrian or Iraqi.

The Syrian minister said that "when the judiciary body meets in order to discuss the question of the pipeline it will find that the problem is not within its jurisdiction because there are political reasons behind the closure of the pipeline. When these reasons are removed, Iraqi oil will flow through the pipeline."

The minister also told *Al-Majallah* that Syria has signed an agreement with Iran on importing 6.2 million tons of oil this year in order to meet its requirements. He said that Syria no longer imports oil from Saudi Arabia but has signed an agreement with [the Saudi company] Petromin for the purchase of 40,000 tons of grease.

On the other hand, informed sources did not preclude the possibility that the question of the closure of the Iraqi pipeline will be discussed at the coming Arab foriegn ministers conference, which will prepare for the summit meeting in November in Riyadh, as Iraq is likely to resubmit its "complaint" to the Arab leaders and Syria sees this as a "political" problem.

Al-Asad Receives Former Japanese Minister

JN291642 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 29 Aug 83

[Text] At 0900 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Yoshio Sakurauchi, former Japanese foreign minister and chairman of the parliamentary society for Arab-Japanese friendship, and his delegation.

Sakurauchi conveyed to the president a message from Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone on relations and cooperation between Syria and Japan. The president asked Sakurauchi to carry a message to the Japanese prime minister and to convey his regards to the Japanese people. Sakurauchi expressed satisfaction with the talks he held in Syria and asserted that Japan supports all the UN resolutions and desires that a lasting and comprehensive peace be achieved in the region. He pointed out that the Japanese and world public opinion has developed a better understanding of the situation in the region.

The president acquainted the Japanese delegation with the situation in the region, Israel's role in sabotaging peace efforts, and the danger posed by Israel as an expansionist entity which, in accordance with its Zionist concepts, is seeking to establish a state extending from the Nile to the Euphrates. The president asserted that Syria supports peace which is based on justice and which regains the usurped rights and the occupied territories and prevents Israel from expanding.

Az-Zu'bi Heads Delegation on Visit to Bulgaria

JN281205 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 28 Aug 83

[Text] People's Assembly Speaker Mahmud az-Zu'bi today left Damascus for Sofia, heading an assembly delegation, on a week-long official visit to the Bulgarian People's Republic at the invitation of the Bulgarian National Assembly.

Seeing Az-Zu'bi and the accompanying delegation off at Damascus International Airport were: People's Assembly Deputy Speaker Dr 'Ali Rida, the assembly secretariat staff, a number of the chairmen and members of the assembly's committee, the People's Assembly secretary general, the assembly's senior officials, and the Bulgarian ambassador in Damascus.

Meetings in Bulgaria

For Syrian and other reportage on the Az-Zu'bi-led delegaton to Bulgaria, including reports on the meetings with Bulgarian Foreign Minister Mladenov and National Assembly Chairman Todorov, see the Bulgaria section of the 30 August East Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

CSSR Delegation Arrives in Damascus 28 August

JN281515 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1410 GMT 28 Aug 83

[Text] Damascus, 28 Aug (SANA) — A CSSR delegation, led by Deputy Premier Jan Gregor, arrived here today on a visit of several days to Syria.

The guest CSSR delegation will hold economic talks with Syrian officials with the aim of expanding and developing economic and commercial relations between the two countries.

Jordan's 'Massacres' Against Palestinians Recalled

JN301926 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Palestine Broadcast: From "Talk of the Return" program]

[Text] In its editorial, under the headline "The Ongoing September," the weekly magazine *At-Tala'i'*, which was issued in Damascus today, says:

It is late August now, and next month is September. Every Palestinian and Arab knows that September represents the September massacres, in 1970, which the Jordanian regime committed against the Palestinian Arab people and the Palestinian revolution for the sake of a mean, cheap award known as Rogers' plan that sought to prevent the Palestinian Arab people from dealing with their own cause and establishing their independent state, which will realize the Palestinian people's national, historical, and inalienable rights.

The liberational October war followed the massacres of September to liberate the occupied Arab territories and the Arab individual from the mark of disgrace, which stained him in June, 1967. The October war also came to liberate the agents and the traitors from their agentry and treachery. But it seems that agentry and treachery are stronger than any other liberational accomplishment. The Jordanian regime continues to put pressure on the Palestinian revolution, exploiting the revolution's difficult circumstances after the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. It also tries to deprive the Palestinian people of their right to struggle in order to set up the national independent state that will enable the Palestinian people to regain their national, historical, and inalienable rights.

The Jordanian regime takes such actions in return for a newmean award represented by Reagan's initiative, just as it did in September, 1970. At that time, the award was the Rogers plan, which had never been realized because it was merely a temptation for the hangman to carry out the September massacres. But this time, the Jordanian regime is committing political massacres rather than physical ones. The award is the Reagan initiative, which will not be realized because the Arab people will not allow it.

September is the beginning of autumn, the autumn of the calendar and not of people, because the September massacres were not an autumn for the Palestinian revolution. They marked a new birth for the revolution, a birth that will achieve a comprehensive liberation and a full restoration of the national, historical rights.

Briefs

News Agencies' Cooperation Agreement — A cooperation agreement was signed in Djakarta today between the SYRIAN ARAB NEWS AGENCY and the organization of Southeast Asian and Pacific Ocean countries' news agencies. [Excerpt] [Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 26 Aug 83 JN]

Withdrawal Delay Said 'Only for a Few Days'

TA310554 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 31 Aug 83

[Excerpts] Israel yesterday complied with President Reagan's request and decided to postpone the IDF withdrawal and redeployment. Our correspondent Shmu'el Tal was in Beirut yesterday and he reports from the north:

[Begin recording] The IDF soldiers in Lebanon only have light equipment. Any concentration of force we saw yesterday in Beirut and its environs seems to be in a waiting position. The soldiers are waiting impatiently. The logistical means have already been removed from the Ash-Shuf mountains. The situation in the Ash-Shuf mountains is very sensitive and may flare up any moment. In private talks with friends, the Druze and the Christians promise they will not harm the IDF forces in the course of the evacuation since the IDF is not their target.

The variety of the forces and weapons in the region and the rivalries between them endanger the IDF, of course. In reaction, we were told by the defense minister's office that nobody claims that delaying the start of the evacuation is good, but the delay is for political reasons. This matter was decided in consultations between the defense minister and the chief of staff while complying with the U.S. President's request, and the delay is only for a few days. [end recording]

Begin Set To Announce Resignation Date

TA301616 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Text] Our correspondent Arye Golan has learned further details about the meeting this afternoon between ministers, coalition leaders, and the prime minister. Mr Begin said that his resignation was connected neither with the behavior of this or that minister, nor with difficulties facing the government. He is not able to continue in his office, and that is the reason.

When the figures beseeched him to postpone his resignation, Begin said it is inconceivable that the entire country and the world would get involved in the question of whether or not he is going to resign. After further entreaties, Begin announced that he would state this evening or tomorrow when he intends to submit his letter of resignation to the president.

Reportedly Drafts Resignation Letter

TA301405 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1403 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Excerpt] Our correspondent has learned that Mr Begin wrote his letter of resignation during the meeting with the ministers, and submitted it to his aide, Yehi'el Qadishay. The letter was typed and returned to the prime minister even as the meeting was underway, apparently in order to demonstrate the seriousness of Begin's intention to resign.

Adviser Porat Outlines Steps

TA301254 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1235 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Interview with Uri Porat, the prime minister's adviser on communications and foreign press affairs, by Knesset correspondent Arye Golan in front of the prime minister's office in Jerusalem — live]

[Text] [Golan] Uri Porat, what is the timetable from now on, since it has now become absolutely clear that Mr Begin truly intends to resign, but is leaving himself a certain grace period. How long will that time period last?

[Porat] The prime minister should be given a grace period to decide on the length of the time-out period, too. He acquiesced in the request of his fellow Cabinet and coalition members, who based their arguments on the fact that, according to the law, even after the letter of resignation is given to the president the Cabinet and the prime minister will continue to serve in a caretaker government until another Cabinet is established. Since this is the situation, it makes no difference precisely when the letter is submitted to the president, whether it is today, tomorrow, or next week.

[Golan] Will it actually take place this week?

[Porat] The Cabinet is still in office, until another is set up in its place. They asked him to postpone handing the letter over to the president by a few days in order to allow them to get ready for the new reality that will be created as a result of the of the letter. Clearly, a new reality will be created. The very submission of the letter is a highly dramatic political act, which creates a new reality — and the prime minister decided to respond to their request, which seems very logical and elementary.

[Golan] Would you say that this is the prime minister's absolutely final decision, or should one interpret the additional grace period as extra time given to continue to plead with him to remain in office?

[Porat] What is on the agenda right now is the question of when the prime minister will go to the president to submit his letter of resignation.

[Golan] In light of this, would you be able to give us an official announcement on the cancellation of Chancellor Kohl's visit to Israel?

[Porat] I cannot make an official announcement, but to the best of my knowledge through contacts we held with Bonn this morning, they reported that they will cancel the chancellor's visit because of the latest developments. Whether this cancellation is final or not, I cannot tell, and no doubt I cannot make any official announcement — all the more so on behalf of the Bonn government.

[Golan] I thank you very much, Uri Porat.

More on Porat's Remarks

TA301246 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1230 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Uri Porat, the prime minister's adviser on communications and foreign press affairs, answers correspondents' questions after reading announcement on Menahem Begin's decision, outside the prime minister's office in Jeruslem — live]

[Excerpts][Porat — in English] The prime minister was requested by his colleagues to give them a little time for preparations and for the task of being organized before he gives his letter to the president. According to the law, the government and the prime minister continue on until a new government is elected. Anyway, the prime minister promised to consider the special request, which was made by his colleagues, and he promised that he will consult with them once more before he goes to the president.

[Television correspondent Yoram Ronen] Uri Porat, the director general of the Broadcasting Authority, Yosef Lapid, told me that he had appealed to the prime minister with a request to at least explain to the people the reasons for his resignation, but Mr Begin refused. Do you think that the prime minister will, in the foreseeable future, explain his motives?

[Porat] I suppose so, but I also think that the prime minister should be allowed to choose the most convenient time for him.

[Ronen] Do you believe the prime minister will submit his resignation to the president within a few days?

[Porat] The prime minister explicitly said that he is going to submit his letter of resignation to the president. The time when the prime minister goes to the president has not yet been set because he yielded to the pleas addressed to him at this morning's meeting.

[Ronen] Do you assume that the prime minister will recommend his own candidate — the man he would like to see succeed him?

[Porat] As of now, I am not assuming anything. At issue now is the question of when the prime minister will go to the president, or how long he will allow his colleagues in the Cabinet and the coalition to organize for the new situation that will be created as a result of the letter of resignation.

[Television correspondent Menashe Raz] Mr Porat, has the visit of the German chancellor been postponed at this point?

[Porat] As far as we have learned from Bonn, the chancellor has for the time being decided to postpone his visit due to these developments.

[Ronen] What about the postponement of the withdrawal from Lebanon?

[Porat] Oh, that is altogether another tune.

David Levi Comments on Begin Resignation

TA301423 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1405 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Interview with Deputy Prime Minister David Levi in front of the prime minister's office in Jerusalem, after the ministerial consultations with unidentified correspondents]

[Text] [Question] Mr Minister, we have heard that when you heard of the possibilities on the distribution of portfolios in the future, after Menahem Begin leaves, you reacted with anger. Is that correct?

[Levi] I have no idea what report you are talking about. I understand each day brings new speculation. What is clear, though, is we — the Herut ministers — met, and the only decision we made — and this was the only issue on the agenda — was to wait for this evening and the prime minister's answer. As you all know, there was an appeal to him to delay going to the president. Then we will meet in order to work out a new coalition. Well, then, this was what was discussed — to wait for the prime minister's answer, and this evening we will meet here.

[Question] Are you still a candidate?

[Levi] Neither jobs, nor candidates, nor portfolios were discussed. No one heard that at the meeting, which is why there is speculation. Although this is legitimate insofar as journalists are concerned, I also understand that reporters are trying to get at the truth, which I am stating now.

[Question] Mr Levi, do you regard yourself as a candidate to replace Mr Begin, and will you fight for that in the Herut movement institutions?

[Levi] I understand from your question that all the initial speculation, by yourself or others, is no longer firm, or well-founded?

[Question] Beyond that, do you intend...

[Levi, interrupting] We will meet this evening, and all the options are open. What is clear is that we will have to discuss this issue, as well as have talks with the present coalition partners to continue the coalition.

[Question] You did not answer my question. You said that all the options remain open. Will you fight, in the party institutions, for the post of prime minister, replacing Menahem Begin?

[Levi] Since at the meeting of the ministers no one raised his candidacy, there is no room for a fight right now. When this issue is raised, I understand there will be more than one candidate.

[Question] Minister Levi, are you in favor of holding early elections?

[Levi] I have always favored early elections. I am not in favor of early elections, though, when the coalition has the chance of continuing in office, and I believe this possibility exists.

[Question] Mr Levi, you said there will be more than one candidate. Will you be prepared to state directly that you are the additional candidate you are attempting to hint at?

[Levi] Since no one has yet submitted his own candidacy, there is no additional candidate. When such a candidacy is submitted, I believe there will be another candidacy still.

[Question] Thank you very much.

Deputy Minister Ben-Me'ir on Begin, Elections

TA301343 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1303 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yehuda Ben-Me'ir by 'Adi Hadar outside the prime minister's office in Jerusalem]

[Text][Hadar] How long will this last? Can the days be stretched into months or perhaps years?

[Ben-Me'ir] I think that anybody who knows the prime minister knows that he is not a man who holds on or drags things out. He will make up his mind, and that was the agreement arrived at. The prime minister will announce his decision about submitting his letter of resignation to the president. I think that our request was made because — at least as far as the National Religious Party [NRP] is concerned — we are determined to continue in the governmentand in this coalition if the prime minister submits his resignation. The obvious impression we received today is that this matter is final. The problem now is for the Likud to choose its candidate, and we want to have 64 Knesset members able to tell the president that they recommend that that candidate should be entrusted with the task [of setting up a new government]. I have no doubt whatsoever that the president will entrust the mission to the man who will be recommended by a majority of the Knesset members. That is the meaning of the Basic Law on the government — the president must consult with all factions to learn which one of them has a chance to form a government. I think that this interval will enable us to get organized.

[Hadar] That is, do you not see a possible scenario in which contacts would fail within a few days, and then the prime minister would proceed with business as usual and go on to lead the government?

[Ben-Me'ir] We hope the prime minister will decide to lead the government. I think it is pointless to mention that this is our strongest request and wish. We have said this so many times and in such a sincere manner — the prime minister himself said that he was impressed and touched by this. However, the impression I received this morning did not point in that direction. I wish it did. In any case, I believe the prime minister will not keep the nation in suspense for a long time. I have no doubt about this.

[Hadar] In your opinion, will the coalition factions try to maneuver Herut, the faction that ultimately elects the person who heads both it and the government?

[Ben-Me'ir] This decision is up to the Herut movement.

[Hadar] Will you accept any decision?

[Ben-Me'ir] What do you mean any decision? That is a very theoretical phrase and I can hardly commit myself to any decision. The way I know things to be, and the way the decision appears, we will definitely accept it. We do not interfere with the Herut movement, within the limits of logic and reason.

[Hadar] I understand that it was already suggested at the meeting to sign or at least initial a coalition agreement, but that the matter was struck off the agenda. Why is that so?

[Ben-Me'ir] I do not want to go into details about the meeting. I can only say that personally I would have agreed to such a thing. Even today I would definitely be ready to state or sign an agreement about the establishment of a new government based on the guidelines of the current coalition agreement. However, other people thought that [words indistinct] the candidate. Therefore, the matter was rejected. Personally, I am definitely willing to do this because, as I have said, I believe that everything should be done in order to once again establish this government as soon as possible, not to keep the nation in suspense.

[Hadar] Is it true that the NRP has reconciled itself to having early elections?

[Ben-Me'ir] Nobody suggested such a thing — that is, I did not hear such a thing. It seems to me that only Ge'ula Kohen, Ari'el Sharon, or two or three people from the Likud firmly expressed themselves against this.

[Hadar] Were they opposed to early elections?

[Ben-Me'ir] Of course, I think that a Cabinet should be set up. This other matter is currently out of the question. We are in principle not opposed to elections when they are necessary. I think that the important goal at present — if the prime minister definitely resigns — is to make it possible to maintain this partnership. After all, this is a joint path — a set of values, viewpoints, and policy. This policy should be allowed to guide the nation.

[Hadar] Theoretically then, any candidate chosen for the prime ministry from the day Menahem Begin resigns may lead the same Cabinet until the end of its term in 1985?

[Ben-Me'ir] Of course. I think that is desirable.

Herut Holds Ministerial Meetings on Successor

Schiffer Reports on Talks

TA301333 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1329 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer — live in front of the prime minister's office in Jerusalem]

[Text] Yitzhaq Shamir was the first senior minister who departed the prime minister's office, and all the television crews rushed to him, attacking him so to speak. But he left us all with a smile on his lips and was not prepared to tell us a thing.

However, the information I got from the second floor, where the prime minister's office is located, is that most of the ministers who participated in the meeting are united in their view that Yitzhaq Shamir should be the Herut's accepted candidate to succeed Menahem Begin. According to this operations plan, Yoram Aridor will move on to the Foreign Ministry as Israel's next foreign minister; Yitzhaq Moda'i will be proposed as the finance minister; David Levi will continue to serve as the deputy prime minister, exercising broader authority than he has now; Ari'el Sharon will chair the Ministerial Committee on Settlement Affairs without any additional portfolio; and Moshe Arens will continue to serve as defense minister.

More on Ministers' Meeting

TA301341 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1318 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer, in front of the prime minister's office in Jerusalem — live]

[Text] Let us add some details we gathered over the last few minutes on what happened here. A few minutes ago, the Herut ministers sitting here at the prime minister's office dispatched their doyen, Minister Ya'aqov Meridor, to the prime minister's residence to talk to him and find out precisely what he had in mind when he told them he would resign, but would be prepared to postpone his resignation; and possibly also hear from Begin on whom he views as the person to replace him in his job.

The senior ministers are waiting to hear the answers. They are Ministers Shamir, Levi, Sharon, and Arens, and they have not yet emerged from the prime minister's office. They are talking with each other because they have set for themselves a very short period of time to decide on who will be the successor. I have with me Minister Zvulun Hammer:

Mr Hammer, in the course of the meeting at the prime minister's office, Rabbi Porush suggested that everyone present sign a writ [shtar] saying that all the partners continue to go together. You were among those who agreed to sign that writ, but Minister Burg as well as others, for example, were not prepared to sign it. Why, do you think?

[Hammer] We thought that if the statements by everyone present were truly sincere — and I believe that in principle they were honest — it would be possible to immediately set up a government, after all the other alternatives were eliminated in terms of Mr Begin's readiness to continue. Then there will be a readiness, on the basis of the previous agreement, to set up a government at once. However, there are evidently coalition members — and incidentally, they are not the only ones, I believe Ge'ula Kohen of Tehiya also said the same — who are not prepared to undertake any commitment automatically, and who would like to see what the conditions and stipulations will be. Perhaps other members, too, would like to see who will be elected, what the conditions will be, and the like. However, I do not know what their arguments are. You must ask them. I personally think that what is called for now is not to put things off for a long period of time, but to set up a government along the lines of the previous one, as the primary and initial priority. If in the future it is possible to expand this into a national unity government, this definitely will be positive.

[Schiffer] The prime minister told you: I am tired, I cannot go on. So now people can already indulge in interpretation. Is this because you made his life miserable, or is it because of the fact that the Lebanon war is continuing? What do you think is the reason Menahem Begin is leaving?

[Hammer] First, I did not make his life miserable. On the contrary.

[Schiffer] You are the education minister.

[Hammer] That is correct. The main reason — and I cannot explain precisely, and even if I could, right now it is not my job. Perhaps the prime minister himself will divulge the reason why he felt he cannot fulfill his job any more. Incidently, the prime minister took great pains to explain, and explain again, that this has nothing to do with the Cabinet's conduct [hitnahagut] or the ministers' behavior. If there are some reasons for his move, they must be deeper — beyond that. I fully believe him.

[Schiffer] Thank you very much, Minister Hammer.

MK Milo on Consultations

TA301404 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1340 GMT 30 Aug 83

[MK Roni Milo interviewed by Shim'on Schiffer and Gil'ad Mishori — live outside the prime minister's office in Jerusalem]

[Text] [Gil'ad Mishori] MK Roni Milo will announce the decisions that apparently have been made:

[Milo] The reports that have been publicized up to now concerning the ministerial consultations are incorrect. The only thing that happened in the meeting upstairs was a consultation between the ministers, and it was agreed to convene a session at 1800. All the reports that candidates for the prime ministership or for other posts were agreed on — like that of foreign minister, finance minister, or chairman of the ministerial committee on settlement affairs — those reports are totally groundless. This was not discussed at the meeting, and I must say that when the session's participants heard these reports they were shocked, and asked that I announce that these reports were groundless and that the subject was not even discussed. I am very sorry that such things are broadcast.

[Schiffer] Who then, according to the latest information, will be your candidate for the prime ministership?

[Milo] Nothing has yet been agreed upon. The ministers held a session now, and they agreed to continue the session at 1800 after reflection and holding consultations. I imagine that we will speed up these talks and reach conclusions quickly. However, nothing has been agreed upon yet.

[Schiffer] Why does it not appear to you that Yitzhaq Shamir is the agreed candidate, as we are hearing from all directions?

[Milo] What does or does not appear to me is not connected with the matter at all. What I say is that up to now no candidate has been agreed on. You, Mr Schiffer, definitely know what my positions are on the subject of candidates. When I tell you that nothing has been agreed on, you can rely on that, perhaps more than if others told you. Nothing has been agreed upon — not on a candidate to the prime ministership, not on the division of portfolios. Those reports are entirely groundless. This is another example of the leaking of false reports from sessions which, in my opinion, are meant to create chaos and make it impossibleto reach suitable settlements, and for no other reason.

[Mishori] Mr Milo, can you list the names of the persons who make up the small committee that will determine the Herut movement's candidate? Who are they? What are their names?

[Milo] I do not know.

[Mishori] Will the consultations today, in the early evening, also include Knesset members or the heads of other coalition factions, or only the Herut senior ministers?

[Milo] I do not know.

Minister Corfu Comments

TA301303 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1248 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Interview with Transportation Minister Hayim Corfu by Arye Golan, in front of the prime minister's office following the ministerial consultations held after Menahem Begin announced that he was postponing submitting his letter of resignation — live]

[Text][Golan] Mr Corfu, what was decided during the ministerial consultations?

[Corfu] To reconvene at 1800 after we fully comprehend the possibilities regarding the decision.

[Golan] The question, of course, is whether the successor would be Yitzhaq Shamir or David Levi.

[Corfu] If the way you interpret the decision is that the postponement is only a matter of days — and the decision stands — certainly we will have to reach a decision on who will be the candidate we propose to the other factions.

[Golan] The rumors here in the courtyard of the prime minister's office, as you were sitting upstairs, was that David Levi has already agreed that Yitzhaq Shamir be the prime minister. Is that correct? Can you confirm this?

[Corfu] I did not hear him say that, nor did I hear that Shamir's candidacy is the only candidacy. Eight ministers were there, and theoretically each one of the eight can serve as a candidate.

[Golan] Still, if you are willing to hint at anything, I would be more than willing to hear from you who the additional candidates are.

[Corfu] I heard nothing from them, so I cannot tell you. At 1800, we will know who the candidates are, and will decide who our candidate is, who we will propose to the other factions.

[Golan] Do you believe the selection of the candidate will be a brief affair, or will that process encounter difficulties?

[Corfu] In my estimation, it will be very brief.

[Golan] In other words, a matter of hours?

[Corfu] In my opinion, even less than that. We are eight people, we will exchange views and reach a decision, which we will bring to the other factions.

[Golan] Will the forum that will elect the candidate be the Herut ministerial forum, or the party center?

[Corfu] No doubt, formally, the center will have to approve it, but no doubt the recommendation by the ministers will have to be presented to it, and if it is a unanimous decision the center will approve the ministers' recommendation.

[Golan] Minister Corfu, this morning we heard accusations by Roni Milo and Minister Shamir's associates over the fact that they had already held talks with Minister David Levi's associates. Did these difference of opinion find expression in the meeting this morning?

[Corfu] Roni Milo is on the stairwell. He will emerge soon, so you can ask him.

[Golan] In other words, you will meet again at 1800, at which time the final decision — I presume — will be made?

[Corfu] That is correct. By 1800, we will get the report on the intentions and possibilities we have.

[Golan] Have the coalition partners given you an absolute go ahead sign saying that any candidate who is acceptable to Herut will similarly be acceptable to TAMI, Tehiya, the National Religious Party, and Agudat Yisra'el?

[Corfu] I have already said that after we reach our recommendation, we will bring it to the other factions. In any case, we must coordinate this with the other factions.

[Golan] Have they already informed you that they have preferred candidates?

[Corfu] I do not know about preferred candidates right now, but you know yourself that there are candidates whose names have been in the air for some time now. Apparently we will have to choose from them.

[Golan] Who is your candidate, Minister Corfu?

[Corfu] I have my own candidate, and I will suggest him at the faction session at 1800. And then I will tell you.

Possible Herut Moves Assessed

TA301542 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Report by political correspondent 'Oz Frankel — live]

[Excerpts] In another hour, the Herut ministers will discuss candidates for the prime ministership and other portfolios. Let there be no mistaking: Under no circumstances will Menahem Begin change his mind, and his postponing going to the president is intended to make things easier for the coalition, not to allow further time for reconsideration.

The question is now who will replace Menahem Begin, and there are three key names in this regard: Yitzhaq Shamir, David Levi, and Ari'el Sharon. As far as we know, Shamir and Sharon are now meeting at the Foreign Ministry. The new picture is perhaps beginning to emerge: A coalition of Shamir and Sharon opposite the possible candidacy of Levi. The Herut ministers will try to reach agreement on one candidate this afternoon, and apparently most of them prefer Shamir. It will be possible to establish a consensus around Shamir among the movement members in the Cabinet. If David Levi presents his candidacy, the matter will have to be transferred to the party's institutions, something that Herut leaders want to prevent. A discussion in the Herut Party Center means an all out struggle that will leave the party hurt and ridden with conflict. If Levi refuses to pull out of the race, other candidates will join, foremost of whom is probably former Defense Minister Sharon.

We recall that this afternoon's discussion is only among the Herut ministers, and they have the right to decide, although at a later stage, they must consult with the other Likud components. Also among these components, and primarily the Liberals, there is agreement on Shamir's candidacy. Levi, for his part, reminded us this afternoon that there will be more than one candidate, and his meaning was absolutely clear to us.

Menahem Begin will not take part in the ministerial meeting this afternoon. He will watch the succession struggle from the sidelines. If one of the candidates is helped by Begin, it will be help by hint only, but we are told that even such a hint is enough in the Herut movement.

Meeting Ends Without Decision

TA301906 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1854 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Report party affairs correspondent Arye Golan]

[Text] The debate on who will succeed the resigning prime minister, Menahem Begin, [words indistinct]. We have with us the Likud faction chairman, MK Roni Milo, who participated in all the debates here this afternoon. What was decided about the succession of Menahem Begin?

[Milo] No decision has been made yet. A serious debate was held, and will be continued tomorrow.

[Golan] Can we say today that candidates have already been presented, that names were mentioned, and that the battle over the succession is now in full swing?

[Milo] I would not go into detail right now. I do not think there are battles right now. There was a debate and the Herut ministers are trying to reach an agreement.

[Golan] Are there candidates at this stage already? How many candidates are there, MK Milo?

[Milo] There are a number of candidates.

[Golan] Three?

[Milo] I would not state a number, but there are a few candidates.

[Golan] Will the subject, do you think, ultimately be brought up for a final dicision at the Herut party center, or will it be determined by this forum of party ministers?

[Milo] That is not clear at this stage. We will continue to discuss this tomorrow.

[Golan] Thank you very much, MK Milo.

I must say that we are not much wiser from what we heard from the chairman of the Likud faction. One thing is clear, however, and that is that the deliberations have not yet ended. According to rumors that got to us in the course of the meeting — which began here at 1800 — the debate was tough. David Levi, the deputy prime minister, presented his candidacy to oppose that of Yitzhaq Shamir, and according to how things appear to be taking shape, seven of the eight Herut faction ministers support Yitzhaq Shamir. But, again, as we have already heard, the matter has not yet been settled, and the contacts will continue.

Levi Demand Prevents Decision

TA302005 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Text] The Herut ministers have not been able to reach an agreement on their candidate for prime minister, because of David Levi's objection and his demand that the matter be transferred to the party center for a decision. Our correspondent Arye Golan points out that Minister Levi was the only one to demand this.

Minister Ari'el Sharon announced that if the subject is transferred to the center for a decision, there will be more than two candidates. All the Likud ministers will meet tomorrow afternoon, and will try to reach an agreement. An earlier meeting between Ministers Shamir and Levi is possible.

Sharon Reportedly Abandons Race for Position

TA302308 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2300 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Text] Ari'el Sharon will give up his candidacy for the premiership. Our correspondent Amnon Nadav reports that Minister Sharon made it clear tonight that he will support Yitzhaq Shamir's candidacy for the post to ensure the continuation of the Likud government.

Shamir's and David Levi's supporters have started vigorous lobbying campaigns among Herut party center members. The center may decide between the two at a meeting to be held on Thursday.

Smaller Parties Said 'Not Averse' to Alignment

TA301910 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Text] The National Religious Party, Agudat Yisra'el, and TAMI leaders believe that the Herut movement is still a long way away from an agreed-upon joint leadership. In talks the leaders of these parties held with the Likud ministers, and particularly with the Herut ministers, it transpires that a battle — not easy, and perhaps also extended — is expected to take place in the Herut movement over the distribution of portfolios among its ministers, following the prime minister's resignation.

The members of the above-mentioned factions believe that time is not playing into the Herut movement's hands, and that if the election of a candidate for the prime minister's post takes a long time, the prime minister would be forced to resign before an agreement is reached on the composition of the new Cabinet. In that case, the president will be forced to impose the setting up of a new Cabinet on Shim'on Peres.

Our correspondent points out that neither of these three parties are now averse to the possibility of setting up an alternative government led by the Alignment.

Minister Burg on Possible Herut Candidate

TA301322 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1308 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Interview with Interior Minister Dr Yosef Burg by Knesset affairs correspondent Arye Golan in front of the prime minister's office in Jerusalem]

[Golan] Dr Burg, what will be the next move? Will Herut will elect Menahem Begin's successor? Does the National Religious Party [NRP] have its own preferred candidate, or does it have people whom the NRP would not like to see at the head of the government?

[Burg] Since the matter is the prerogative of Herut, it would not be either wise or collegial to grade the candidates before they themselves have decided. I imagine their decision will be made out of a sense of responsibility and knowledge, and therefore one cannot believe that the NRP would have any reservations.

[Golan] In other words, any candidate elected by Herut will be acceptable to you?

[Burg] Any candidate whom I can think of will be acceptable.

[Golan] Who do you think about, Minister Burg?

[Burg] That is my secret, and I will not disclose it before they decide. They must do that.

[Golan] Minister Burg, as the most senior member of the Israeli Cabinet, do you believe that with a successor to Menahem Begin the Cabinet will be able to complete its full term, or are we nonetheless expected to face early elections?

[Burg] Since the end of the full term is November 1985, perhaps something will happen a bit earlier, but there is no precipitation [last word in English] on this hasty advancement which people thought would happen. I cannot envision this happening.

[Golan] Would you say that the coalition will survive together, intact, and that nothing will happen to it after Menahem Begin goes?

[Burg] I cannot guarantee that nothing will happen. I am not an employee of a life insurance company. Still, one can expect all of the coalition partners to continue because of the overall interest in the agreed-upon plan regarding national and social questions.

[Golan] Does that include TAMI as well?

[Burg] I have no reason to exclude it from this statement.

[Golan] Thank you very much, Minister Burg.

Peres on Setting Up Alignment Government

TA301952 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1932 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Interview with Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres by party affairs correspondent Nisim Mish'al, preceded by question by Jerusalem anchorman Hayim Yavin, in the Tel Aviv studios]

[Text] [Yavin] Good evening, Mr Peres. Let me first ask you one question: No doubt there are people who, ever since the crisis first broke out, are expecting to hear what you have to say, and yet you remain silent. Why have you kept quiet until now?

[Peres] We waited until it became clear whether the prime minister would resign or not. This afternoon we finally learned that Mr Begin will resign and there is no going back on this. Therefore, we ended our silence.

[Mish'al] Could you tell us the next steps the Alignment will take after its silence?

[Peres] The question is: What steps are necessary for Israel. In my opinion the first step is to end the crisis quickly. We are facing serious, heavyweight problems in Lebanon — in the economy and in market matters. Second, it is necessary to set up a government that is able to tackle such problems, both as an alternative government, as well as on a broader basis. What I think Israel needs today is the broadest possible government. In addition to this, the people should be given the feeling of unity and an indication of a trend once again.

[Mish'al] What are the chances that such a government will be established under the Alignment?

[Peres] I think that there are chances. Right now, the Alignment constitutes the largest Knesset party, having 50 seats. It is also the most united faction, compared to the other factions, and it has its own answers as well as a sincere desire to have a broad, large, and serious partnership in order to combat the problems.

[Mish'al] I have no question about the desire, but the question is: what is the basis for your assessment that there are chances of setting up a government headed by the Alignment?

[Peres] On the basis of need, as well as on the basis of the chances. I believe more and more Knesset factions are gradually becoming convinced that this should be done quickly on a broad basis. No such broad basis is possible without the Alignment. It emerged that the Cabinet that has served up to now, has in fact collapsed — both the government itself and its policy — and it is necessary to set up an alternative quickly. I have faith in the sense of responsibility felt by other Knesset members.

[Mish'al] No doubt you too, like myself, have already heard the reactions of the leaders of the National Religious Party [NRP], TAMI, and Agudat Yisra'el. These leaders denied this and said that they wanted the partnership with the Likud to continue. How does this harmonize with your assessment, which you have just voiced?

[Peres] I believe that what was true yesterday was true then, when a rather pathetic attempt was made to persuade Mr Begin. Today the situation is different, and tomorrow it will be different still. All the factions — and I am not being critical now — will be required to provide answers, both for today and for tomorrow, not for yesterday or the day before.

[Mish'al] Perhaps you will permit me to help you, and get information.

[Peres, interrupting] Now let us see what kind of help you can give, Nisim.

[Mish'al] Have contacts gotten underway — is that what you are saying? Based on practical contacts that have been held with those factions?

[Peres] In the formal sense of the word, there have been no contacts, although talks are being held and everyone is on speaking terms with everyone else in the Knesset. Talks, although not formal, are being held. I would not like to obligate any faction. I would not like to talk in the name of any faction but the Alignment, which is presently absolutely united in its path, but I would say cautiously that such a possibility definitely exists.

[Mish'al] And do you plan to pursue these contacts, say, tomorrow?

[Peres] I believe it is our duty to do so. I plan to continue these contacts, and I think each day that passes is a shame. What happened today is an outstanding case of precedents previously set in Israel. We are all responsible for the country, and we should all be responsible for setting up an alternative to the Cabinet and its path as fast as possible.

[Mish'all] In view of what is happening in the Alignment and the personal rivalries, do you think that right now the Alignment is mature enough to establish a new government and lead the people?

[Peres] It is a good thing you asked, Nisim. Look, in times of crisis — but not just in times of crisis — the Alignment is capable of uniting. It has never been as united as it has been over the past few weeks. It is not with glee that I note what is happening in the Likud today. Today there is no internal problem in the Alignment, either between its two, or rather three, partners — namely, the Labor Party, MAPAM, and the Citizens Rights Movement — or against a personal background. The picture is clear. There is no competition, there is no rivalry, and there hardly are differences of opinion.

[Mish'al] Perhaps you will permit me to end with a somewhat personal question. Even among Mr Begin's opponents, some are sorry about his resignation and his leaving the political arena. Do you join them, Mr Peres?

[Peres] I draw a distinction between the personal situation, which I appreciate as separate from the public turmoil — and Mr Begin's political path, which has reached its end. Mr Begin himself described the war in Lebanon as a tragedy, and I appreciate that definition and assessment. I believe it was really a correct assessment. The Cabinet discovered that the economy is on the brink of disaster, tried to combat the problem unsuccessfully, and therefore in terms of the country — not insofar as Mr Begin is concerned — this spells the end of the Herut's and Mr Begin's political and economic path. It is necessary to set up an alternative.

As for the personal aspect, I am sure the opportunity will come — for myself, too — to express both words of appreciation as well as statements of criticism, as every statesman who tries to serve his country deserves.

[Mish'al] Before we end, do you Hayim Yavin have an additional question from Jerusalem?

[Yavin] I wanted only to add one more thing: How do you assess your new rivals in the Herut movement and the Likud right now, Mr Peres? Briefly, if possible.

[Peres] For the moment, they are their own rivals, not mine. The competition is entirely within the Likud movement, and not with us. We represent different paths, and there is no one person within the Likud movement for me to point at right now.

Likud MK Wants National Unity Government

TA310624 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 31 Aug 83

[Text] Likud MK Dror Zeigerman will continue today the efforts to consolidate a group of coalition Knesset members who will firmly demand the establishment of a national unity government.

Zeigerman said that a new government on a narrow coalitional base, such as the Begin-led government, will be unable to rise to the challenge of the problems the country is facing.

FRG Chancellor's Visit Officially Postponed

TA301324 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1315 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Statement by Prime Minister Begin's adviser on communication and foreign press affairs, Uri Porat — live from the prime minister's office]

[Text] In view of the prime minister's announcement concerning his intention to resign, it was decided by mutual agreement between the Government of Israel and the Federal Republic of West Germany to postpone Chancellor Helmut Kohl's visit to Israel. The two government will determine a new date.

INTER-MAGHREB AFFAIRS

Tunisian Foreign Minister on Summit Prospects

LD261312 Rabat MAP in English 1200 GMT 26 Aug 83

[Text] Casablanca, Aug 26 (MAP) — "The future of the Arab Maghreb is on the right path", declared Tunisian Foreign Minister Beji Caid es-Sebsi on Thursday in Casablanca shortly before leaving Morocco. In a statement to the Moroccan news agency "MAGHREB ARABE PRESSE", Mr es-Sebsi recalled that his visit to Morocco was part of permanent consultations between the two countries' heads of state and that he had delivered to King Hassan II of Morocco a message from President Habib Bourguiba. About the eventuality of holding a Maghreban summit, Mr Caid es-Sebsi said "a summit is not the main purpose...the most important thing in politics is the result...it is question of going slowly but steadily and I think that thanks to the willingness of our statesmen we will go steadily towards the setting up of the grand Maghreb". During his visit to Morocco, Mr Caid es-Sebsi was received by King Hassan II and held talks with his Moroccan counterpart M'Hamed Boucetta on issues of common interest.

Upon his return to Tunis, Mr Caid es-Sebsi briefed President Bourguiba about the outcome of his visits in Algeria and Morocco.

In an interview Thursday with Saudi daily *"Al-Jazirah"*, Mr Beji Caid es-Sebsi indicated that efforts were being made to gather the suitable circumstances for the (?holding of a Maghreban summit) whose success (?will be a prelude) to an Arab global understanding. The various contacts among the countries of the region, he said, led to the strong conviction that it was necessary to mobilize all energies to the service of the Arab-Islamic nation's causes.

In another development, *"Al-Jazirah"*, reported that according to diplomatic sources, the recent contacts among the capitals of Maghreban countries have resulted in a rapprochement of viewpoints and an agreement about the holding of a Maghreban summit in the few coming days. According to the daily, the Palestinian cause, the Sahara issue, the organizing of a referendum in the Saharan provinces, current African issues and the future economic, commercial, and cultural cooperation among the countries of the Arab Maghreb will top the agenda of the said summit.

LIBYA

Al-Qadhdhafi Denies Military Involvement in Chad

DW301002 Hamburg ARD Television Network in German 2030 GMT 29 Aug 83

[Interview with Muammar al-Qadhdhafi by ARD correspondent Gerhard Konzelmann in Tripoli; questions in German, answers in Arabic with passage-by-passage German translation, date not given, recorded]

[Text][Konzelmann] In answering my question about the principles of his Africa policy, Al-Qadhdhafi says:

[Al-Qadhdhafi] We are an African country. We are not a foreign country outside Africa that should have a policy on Africa. African policy is our policy because we are Africans.

[Konzelmann] What are your interests in Chad?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] We don't have any interests in Chad. It is a matter of security.

[Konzelmann] And you don't have any military involvement in Chad?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Security is more important than interests. There is no reason for any military involvement in Chad.

[Konzelmann] Not even if and when France becomes more strongly involved?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] France already has intruded militarily.

[Konzelmann] Nevertheless, you are still exercising restraint?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Yes.

[Konzelmann] Do you continue to support Goukuni?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Naturally we support this side because this side represents the legitimate government.

[Konzelmann] Militarily as well?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] There is no need for military support. Our support is political.

[Konzelmann] And he doesn't need any weapons?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] He doesn't need any weapons. He has plenty of soldiers. He was the legitimate president.

Palestinian, Lebanese Organization Leaders Arrive

LD301448 Tripoli JANA in English 1408 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Text] Tripoli, Dhulqidah 22, august 30, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Mr. George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (P.F.L.P.), Mr Ahmad Jabril, secretary general of the P.F.L.P. General Command, Mr. Samir Ghawshah, secretary general of the Popular Militant Front [as received], Mr. 'Abd ar-Rahim Murad, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Union in Lebanon all arrived here yesterday evening to take part in the Libyan people's celebrations of the 14th anniversary of the glorious Al-Fatih Revolution.

Mr. George Habash made a statement to JANA correspondent at Tripoli International Airport in which he reaffirmed the P.F.L.P.'s solidarity with the Libyan Arab people against U.S. imperialist conspiracies which he said are aimed at aborting the firm principled stands of the Great Al-Fatih Revolution in support of all the free peoples in the Arab nation and the rest of the world.

On his part, Mr. Samir Ghawshah stated that their participation in these celebrations is a confirmation of the Palestinian people's feelings towards the Great Al-Fatih Revolution. Mr. 'Abd ar-Rahim Murad on his part praised the Great Al-Fatih's stands in support of the Lebanese Arab people's struggle against conspiracies to partition their country devised by imperialist circles.

Army Chief Receives PFLP-GC's Jibril, Others

LD310822 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 31 Aug 83

[Text] Tripoli, 31 Aug (JANA) — Brigadier Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander in chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, yesterday evening received Brother Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the PFLP-General Command, who is visiting the Jamahiriyah to participate in the Libyan Arab people's festivities marking the 14th anniversary of the Great Al-Fatih Revolution.

Habash, Ghawshah, Murad

LD302346 Tripoli JANA in English 1815 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Text] Tripoli, Dhulqidah 22, August 30, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Brigadier Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander-in-chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, today met with Dr. George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the liberation of Palestine (PFLP), Dr. Samir Ghawshah, secretary general of the Popular Struggle Front and Mr 'Abd ar-Rahim Murad, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Union who arrived here to attend the 15th anniversary celebration of the Great Al-Fatih Revolution.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Saudi Prince Faysal 29 Aug

LD310716 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Text] Tripoli, 30 Aug (JANA) — The brother leader of the revolution yesterday evening received Prince Faysal ibn Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the chairman of the Higher Youth Council in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and president of the Arab Sports Federation, who had attended part of the Second African Youth Festival now being held in the country of the revolution.

Prince Leaves After Statement

LD310724 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 29 Aug 83

[Text] Tripoli: Prince Faysal ibn Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, chairman of the Higher Youth Council in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and president of the Arab Sports Federation, left Tripoli this morning together with the accompanying delegation at the end of a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. In a statement to a JANA correspondent, Prince Faysal expressed his pleasure at visiting the Jamahiriyah and hailed the outcome of the contacts he conducted in the Jamahiriyah to consolidate cooperation in the field of sport.

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets With Malagasy President

LD302357 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2015 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Text] A meeting was held today between the brother leader of the revolution and the head of Government of Madagascar, Didier Ratsiraka, who arrived in Tripoli yesterday evening.

MOROCCO

Jordanian Foreign Minister Departs 28 Aug

LD291415 Rabat MAP in English 1220 GMT 29 Aug 83

[Text] Rabat, Aug 29 [MAP] — Jordanian Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim left Rabat on Sunday at the end of a short visit to Morocco. "This visit is part of permanent consultations between King Hassan II of Morocco and King Husayn of Jordan on the crucial issues interesting the two countries and the whole Arab nation," Mr al-Qasim had declared on Saturday upon arrival in Morocco. He added that the decisive phase the Arab nation was going through required an intensified concentration and exchange of viewpoints, specifying that the abnormal situation prevailing in Lebanon and the Iraq-Iran war were of main concern to Jordan.

"Concertation with our brethren in Morocco .. is likely to mobilize energies and achieve solidarity to settle problems and overcome the differences that only weaken Arab ability to oppose the dangers threatening the Arab nation," Jordanian foreign minister said.

SUDAN

Khartoum Schools Closed Until Further Notice

JN272038 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1420 GMT 27 Aug 83

[Text] Khartoum, 27 Aug (SUNA) — It has been decided to suspend classes in all the elementary, preparatory, and secondary schools as well as in foreign community and private schools in Khartoum Province as of tomorrow, Sunday, 28 August, and until further notice. This came in a statement by Education and Guidance Minister Dr 'Uthman Sa'd Ahmad and Khartoum Governor Babakr 'Ali at-Tawm. The statement attributed the suspension of classes to the poor services and difficult transportation situation resulting from the rise of the Nile River waters, which will result in a shortage of electrical power.

TUNISIA

Unions Postpone Strikes in View of Talks

LD261131 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 25 Aug 83

[Text] As a result of the recent meeting between Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali, and (Habib Achour), president of the General Union of Workers of Tunisia [UGTT], aimed at stopping the senseless strikes and at studying the problems and finding the necessary solutions, [word indistinct] that the parties concerned with discussing the problems and providing a good atmosphere which would deepen the spirit of responsibility of production organizations within the framework of honest dialogue and true national solidarity. In this context we received a communique today from the UGTT signed by union President (Habib Achour) and by (Allal al-Amiri) on behalf of the National Association for Oil and Chemicals. Here is the text of the communique:

The UGTT and the National Association for Oil and Chemicals inform all the oil distribution unions that the intermittent strikes decided upon on 25 June 1983 and (?connected with) the oil distribution companies will be postponed as from yesterday, 24 August 1983, following the decision to hold a meeting on 26 August between the social partners and chaired by the prime minister. The union and the association ask the workers and trade unions concerned to adhere to [words indistinct].

KUNA: 30 Sentenced for Illegal Party Membership

LD261104 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1018 GMT 26 Aug 83

[Text] Tunis, 26 Aug (KUNA) — The Tunisian military tribunal yesterday issued sentences ranging from 2 to 8 years of hard labor to 30 persons, including 19 military men of various ranks, all convicted of belonging to the Islamic Liberation Party. Civilians received only 2-year sentences, while military men received sentences ranging from 5 to 8 years' hard labor. Among the military men are a captain, two first lieutenants, one noncommissioned officer, one sergeant 1st class, five sergeants, and nine corporals. The civilians include an engineer, a tutor at the faculty of science, a sports teacher, an usher at the Ministry of Higher Education, a primary school teacher, a secondary school pupil, a government employee, and a commercial agent.

The defense counsel withdrew from the session when the president of the tribunal rejected the request by defense lawyers to postone the hearing in order to give them time to study the files.

Prominent Tunisian Withdraws From Opposition

LD261107 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1831 GMT 25 Aug 83

[Text] Tunis, 25 Aug (KUNA) — Secretary general of the Arab Medical Association Dr Hamouda Ben Slama revealed here today the reasons for his withdrawal from the leadership of the Socialist Democratic Movement, which is considered to be the largest opposition political organization in Tunisia. He said in an exclusive interview to KUNA: "The principal reason for my withdrawal from the movement is my rejection of the attempts by some people to give a Marxist color to the movement, while I still believe that the movement should follow an Islamic Arab course which flows from the actual Islamic Arab reality."

Dr Ben Slama sent a letter last week to the secretary general of the Socialist Democratic Movement, the details of which have not been announced, in which he informed the secretary general of his total withdrawal from the movement.

The movement, which was formed by Mr Mestiri and a number of prominent political leaders who broke away from the ruling Destour Socialist Party in the early 1970's, is considered to be Tunisia's largest opposition political organization in spite of the fact that the leaders of this movement have not yet obtained a license from the Tunisian authorities to make the movement into a recognized political party.

WESTERN SAHARA

Information Ministry Cites Mitterrand Message

LD292018 Algiers APS in Arabic 1400 GMT 29 Aug 83

[Text] The Liberated Territories, SDAR, 29 Aug (APS) — The Saharan Ministry of Information and Culture issued a statement today which included the full text of the message sent by French President Francois Mitterrand to President Mohamed Abdelaziz, president of the SDAR and secretary general of Polisario, in reply to the message received from him on 25 June last. The French president said in this message that "like you, the French Government expresses it satisfaction at the results of the recent OAU summit and in particular the resolution passed on this occasion concerning the Western Sahara issue. The president of the republic has several times confirmed France's adherence to the Saharan people's right to self-determination through a just and normal referendum on self-determination."

"Rest assured, Mr Secretary General, that France supports without reservation the efforts of the OAU in the search for a political settlement of the conflict based on a cease-fire and the holding of a referendum backed by suitable international guarantees, and it hopes that conditions will exist as soon as possible for implementation of the OAU resolutions. It also hopes that the Western Sahara issue will reach a final solution which is called for by respect for the principles which govern the international community and the interests of the peoples of the region."

President Mitterrand's message ended with these words: "This is the line of the French Government in all the contacts which it holds in connection with this matter."

ETHIOPIA

Mengistu, Libyan Foreign Minister Discuss Chad

EA292242 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 29 Aug 83

[Excerpt] Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council and of COPWE, commander in chief of the revolutionary Armed Forces, and current chairman of the OAU, today received a message from Brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. In a ceremony at the COPWE office, Brother 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, Libya's foreign minister, delivered the message to the comrade chairman. The comrade chairman had extensive talks with Brother al-'Ubaydi on Chad.

Foreign Minister Returns From Tanzania Visit

LD281557 Addis Ababa Domestic Service Amharic 1000 GMT 28 Aug 83

[Text] Comrade Goshu Wolde has disclosed that the diplomatic activities being carried out by current OAU Chairman Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam to solve the problems of Chad and Western Sahara are supported by the Tanzanian leader. Comrade Goshu Wolde, foreign minister and COPWE Central Committee member, disclosed this in a statement made on arrival in Addis Ababa this morning from Dar es Salaam, after delivering a special message to President Julius Nyerere of Tanzania from Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, Provisional Military Administrative Council and COPWE chairman, commander in chief of the revolutionary Armed Forces, and current chairman of the OAU.

The comrade chairman's message to President Nyerere concerned Chad and Western Sahara. Comrade Goshu disclosed that his mission was useful and constructive. He is to make a similar working visit to other countries. The current OAU chairman has been exchanging views with African and other heads of state in order to find a permanent solution to the Chad and Western Sahara issues.

KENYA

President Moi Elected for Another Term

EA291134 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1015 GMT 29 Aug 83

[Text] His Excellency President Daniel arap Moi was today formally elected for another term of 5 years after being returned unopposed as MP for Baringo central. President Moi fulfilled the constitutional requirements by presenting his nomination papers to the returning officer of Baringo, Mr James Karuga, late this morning. The president has been returned unopposed in his Baringo central constituency for an unprecedented five times since independence. He assured his constituents who turned up in their thousands to witness democracy in action that he will continue to serve them and the nation with dedication.

Emphasizing the importance of democracy and high leadership qualities, the president pointed out that many people in other African countries do not enjoy democracy any more and that suffering is the order of the day in those countries. He said he will continue to fight against tribalism because it is an evil that has wrecked many African nations. On the role of the church in society, the president called on church leaders to join hands with other leaders in the country to serve mankind with dignity. The supervisor of elections, Mr Zakariah Nyarango, later declared President Moi as duly elected for another term of 5 years as the leader of the Republic of Kenya. Mr Nyarango, who made the announcement in the VOK studios soon after President Moi had presented his papers to the returning officer in Baringo district, said he had fulfilled all the constitutional requirements.

President Moi Addresses Voi Rally on Election

EA302344 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Excerpt] His Excellency President Daniel arap Moi today cautioned wananchi against selling their votes, noting that the practice amounted to selling their democratic rights. The president said the vote was a shield for democracy that should be cast wisely to elect leaders in the coming parliamentary and civic elections. President Moi was addressing thousands of wananchi at Voi township while on his way to Mombasa to start a 6-day working visit to the coast province. Saying that the voters would decide who leaders and representatives would be, President Moi advised wananchi to scrutinize all the candidates and beware of false promises and hopes. He said people should not elect leaders who just wanted to be called honorable but should choose the representatives who are close to wananchi — those who knew and cared for their problems.

The president cautioned voters against candidates who just talk but who once get into parliament would not initiate development projects. He said that we need leaders who care for the youth, elders, women and children, adding that in future Kenyans should have a broad mix of leaders, including academicians, women, elders, and the youth, so that the welfare of all could be catered for. President Moi further advised wananchi against night meetings saying that all meetings should be held during the day, as there was nothing to hide. The president said licences for meetings and rallies were easily obtainable from the provincial administration and there was no need to hold night meetings. He called on civil servants to be completely impartial during the general elections next month so that the rights of all could be safeguarded. Thanking all Kenyans for reelecting him president of the republic unopposed, President Moi pledged to serve the country with renewed vigor to enhance economic and social progress.

Addresses Mombasa Rally

EA302347 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Text] His Excellency President Daniel arap Moi said in Mombasa this evening that peace and stability have continued to prevail in Kenya because of our strong democracy. The president said that the rights of every citizen have continued to be respected and upheld over the years thereby creating a firm foundation for peace, love, and unity in the country. President Moi was addressing a mammoth crowd at the coast provincial headquarters which welcomed him to Mombasa at the start of a 6-day working visit to the coast province.

He said our democracy has even enabled all kinds of candidates, including those had served jail terms, to be allowed to contest for seats in next month's general elections. The president advised wananchi that the vote is a powerful tool that should be used to safeguard the rights of the people. President Moi further advised wananchi to elect people who were ready to work hand-in-hand with the government and also ready to speak in one voice in the effort to enhance national unity. On arrival in Mombasa, President Moi was given a heroic welcome by the residents who chanted loyalty slogans along the entire route from the mainland to the provincial headquarters on Mombasa island. Before addressing wananchi, President Moi inspected a colorful guard of honor mounted by the Kenya Navy.

Further on Mombasa Address

EA302351 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Excerpts] His Excellency President Daniel arap Moi said today in Mombasa that wananchi had the power to decide on who should lead them, and nobody should think he or she can buy leadership. The president pointed out that the government upheld democracy and will not tell the wananchi who to elect to the National Assembly and local authorities. He said the ruling party, KANU, had cleared all the candidates and what remained was for the wananchi to elect the right people to lead them for the next 5 years. He observed we have even cleared known thieves and candidates with (?worse) records. We have flouted the Constitution which says that anyone who have served a more than 6 months jail term should never be allowed to contest for a seat in any general election.

Amid cheers from the crowd, President Moi reminded Kenyans that the government had even deployed its security personnel to escort an aspiring candidate to present his nomination papers. He advised wananchi to elect development-conscious people who will not forget them immediately they get to parliament. He, however, called for countrywide peace during the elections so that the country's record would remain clean. The president further said Kenya was known for her peace and unity and held a record of protecting her people among other African countries, adding that since independence Kenya is the only country on the African continent which has not had many lives lost. The occasion was attended by the chief of general staff, General Mulinge, and the coast police chief, Mr Luka Galgalo.

Western Sahara's Hakim Arrives, Delivers Message

EA292315 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 29 Aug 83

[Excerpt] The Polisario foreign minister, Mr Ibrahim Hakim, arrived in Kenya today with a special message from the president of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic to President Moi. Mr Ibrahim Hakim, who flew into Nairobi from Lagos, Nigeria, delivered the message to the permanent secretary for foreign affairs, Mr (Japhet Shamalla), for onward transmission to President Moi. The contents of the note were not disclosed during the meeting between the Polisario minister and Mr (Shamalla).

SEYCHELLES

PRC Minister Arrives in Victoria, Meets Rene

AB260915 Paris AFP in English 0853 GMT 26 Aug 83

[Text] Victoria, Aug 26 (AFP) — Visiting Chinese State Councellor and Cooperation Minister Chen Muhua called on President Albert Rene at State House here this morning at the start of a busy day of talks with government leaders. Arriving in Seychelles last night, Mrs Chen said that the People's Republic of China was "willing and prepared" to foster deep understanding between the two countries.

Mrs Chen, a senior member of the Chinese central government and minister of foreign economic relations and trade, told SEYCHELLES AGENCE PRESSE (SAP) that members of her delegation would exchange views with their counterparts here on economic and technical cooperation and trade between the two nations. Seychelles Government sources said that the talks would concentrate especially on bilateral cooperation in the education sector.

Apart from this morning's meeting with President Rene, the Chinese delegation is holding separate talks with Education and Information Minister James Michel, Planning and External Relations Minister Maxime Ferrari and National Development Minister Jacques Hodoul. President Rene has visited China twice since coming to power in 1977. In Beijing last April he signed an economic and technical cooperation agreement and a protocol for cultural exchange with Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang.

TANZANIA

Nyerere Receives OAU Message on Chad, Sahara

EA280932 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1700 GMT 27 Aug 83

[Text] President Nyerere today received a special message from current OAU chairman Colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam of Ethiopia. The message was conveyed to Mwalimu Nyerere at his home in Msasani by Ethiopian Foreign Minister Goshu Wolde, accompanied by acting OAU Secretary General Peter Onu.

It is understood that the message is about OAU efforts to find a solution to the West Sahara and Chad crises. At Msasani the talks between the Ethiopian foreign minister and Mwalimu were attended by Foreign Minister Mdugu Salim Ahmad Salim, Tanzanian ambassador to Ethiopia Ndugu Tatunuru, and other government officials.

Nyerere Greets Al-Qadhdhafi on Anniversary

EA302348 Dar es Salaam in English to East Central and Southern Africa 1800 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Text] Dar es Salaam: Tanzania has praised Libya for its continued support for the liberation movements in southern Africa and the Middle East. The praise is contained in a message President Nyerere has sent to the Libyan leader, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi on the occasion of the 14th anniversary of the September first Libyan revolution. The president said in the message that Tanzania has been encouraged by the progress made by the people of Libya in the development of their country and the unwavering support in the struggle against imperialism. Mwalimu expressed gratification with the existing good relations between the two countries.

Nyerere Receives Message From 'Arafat 28 August

EA281738 Dar Es Salaam in English to East Africa 1300 GMT 28 Aug 83

[Text] Dar es Salaam — President Nyerere today received a special message from the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, PLO, Ndugu Yasir 'Arafat. The message was delivered to Mwalimu by a PLO envoy who is visiting the country. Ndugu al-Harith Salmani. After presenting the message Ndugu Salmani had a 2-hour discussion with President Nyerere on the situation of the Palestine liberation struggle. He gave Mwalimu a detailed assessment of the PLO struggle and its leadership since the Lebanese massacre by the Israelis last year. Ndugu al-Harith Salmanireaffirmed PLO determination to intensify the armed struggle and to mobilize the Palestine people in their final fight to defeat the enemy. The meeting between the PLO envoy and Mwalimu was also attended by the foreign minister, Ndugu Salim Ahmad Salim, and other government officials.

CPSU Delegation on Visit to Country

EA262219 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1700 GMT 26 Aug 83

[Text] Arusha — The CPSU today pledged to help the frontline in the liberation of southern Africa in their struggle against the Boers provocation. The leader of the five-member CPSU delegation currently visiting the country, Gennadiy Bogomyakov, told the Revolutionary Party of Tanzania [CCM] members at UNGA Ltd Branch, Arusha, that his party was ready to assist all people engaged in the struggle against exploitation, oppression, and all tyrannical acts. Gennadiy Bogomyakov, who is a member of the CPSU Central Committee, said his party would continue to defend the interests of peasants and workers and stressed that the party was a party of the people with the responsibility of helping the people in their liberation efforts. Referring to Tanzania's efforts to liberate itself economically, he said the USSR had been following those efforts with great interest and wished Tanzania success in this field as well as in the building of Ujama. Later, the CPSU delegation toured various CCM branches in the Arusha region. Tomorrow the delegation will visit the Manyara and Ngorongoro wildlife parks to view the animals.

Cooperation Talks Held

EA291210 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 0400 GMT 29 Aug 83

[Text] The CPSU has said that relations between that party and the Revolutionary Party [CCM] have improved positively and should be improved even further. Ndugu Gennadiy Bogomyakov, the leader of the five-man Soviet party delegation, which is in the country on a 1-week visit, said this yesterday during cooperation talks between his delegation and a CCM delegation at the Dar es Salaam CCM branch headquarters. The leader, who is a member of the party Central Committee, said that relations between the parties of the two countries, particularly in the fields of ideology and education, have made good and satisfactory progress.

At the talks the CCM delegation was led by the head of the department of publicity and mass mobilization, Ndugu Daudi Mwakawago, who briefed the Soviet delegation on present party efforts to strengthen the country and extricate it from economic difficulties, on its activities for the liberation of southern Africa, and on national security. The Soviet delegation has also promised the CCM aid in the form of 2 vehicles, 20 loudspeakers and 10 cameras to serve the public. The delegation, which arrived in the country last Tuesday and has held talks with the CCM secretary general, Ndugu Rashid Kawawa, and toured Zanzibar and Arusha, will end its visit tomorrow.

UGANDA

Government Delegation Returns From USSR Visit

EA272029 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 27 Aug 83

[Excerpt] A Uganda Government delegation, led by the minister of internal affairs, Dr Luwuliza-Kirunda, has returned from the USSR where they discussed possibilities of economic cooperation between the two countries. Dr Luwuliza-Kirunda told newsmen on arrival at Entebbe Airport that while in Moscow the delegation signed an agreement under which the USSR agreed to cancel a sizeable amount of debts Uganda owed her. The time of paying the remaining debts was also rescheduled. Under the agreement, Uganda will start paying these debts in 15 years to come. In addition, the USSR agreed to give a loan for the rehabilitation of Lira spinning mill and the expansion of Busitema agricultural college. The two projects were established with Soviet aid in the 1960's.

Dr Luwiliza-Kirunda told newsmen that while in the Soviet Union, his delegation held talks on various questions of economic cooperation, training of administrative staff and the development of cultural and scientific links between the two governments. He disclosed that the USSR agreed to send to Uganda experts and doctors. It also agreed to train Ugandans at its universities. On their way back to Uganda the members of the delegation had a stopover in London where they met businessmen with whom they discussed investment opportunities in Uganda. Dr Luwuliza-Kirunda, who is also the secretary general of the Uganda People's Congress [UPC], also met student leaders and had talks with UPC branch members in Britain.

CAMEROON

Biya Receives Sudanese Envoy, Numayri Message

AB301620 Yaounde Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Text] The Cameroonian head of state, His Excellency Paul Biya, this morning received the Sudanese roving ambassador, 'Umar Yasin, bearer of a message from Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri. Speaking later to Radio Cameroon, the Sudanese roving ambassador said the message he brought to President Paul Biya was about the relations between Sudan and Cameroon and also about the current situation in Chad.

[Begin recording] [Yasin] I have brought a message from President Numayri to his brother, President Paul Biya, president of Cameroon, and it is about the relations between the two countries and also about the current situation in Chad. We look at the current situation in Chad as an aggression and intervention of Libya in the affairs of the legitimate government of Hissein Habre.

The legitimate government of Hissein Habre is considered by the OAU, is considered by the nonaligned countries, and it is considered by the United Nations, and it is something like an invasion of a country to another country. [sentence as heard] But the presence of France in Chad is not against the charter of OAU or the charter of the United Nations. It has been called by the legitimate government and the legitimate government has every right to look for help from any other country if it is subjected to invasion or aggression by another one.

[Question by unidentified reporter] Do you think national reconciliation is possible now in Chad?

[Yasin] Also, I think President Habre has said something about that and he is the president of the legitimate government and he can look for the right way to follow. [end recording]

Biya Candidacy for CNU Party Chairman Urged

AB301615 Yaounde Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Excerpt] Members of government and statutory members of the Cameroonian National Union [CNU] party have been urging President Paul Biya to put in his candidature for the vacant post of party chairman. The proposals for President Biya's nomination to head the party are accompanied by calls for an extraordinary session of the CNU party congress to proclaim President Biya's party leadership following the resignation last Saturday of Mr Ahidjo from the chairmanship.

Motions supporting the president's nomination and the convening of an extraordinary congress are being sent by individuals, CNU party organs, as well as professional associations, social, and traditional groups. The most recent motions supporting President Paul Biya's nomination and the convening of an extraordinary congress of the party, according to Article 25 of the statute, have come from the Chamber of Hoteliers in Cameroon, the elites of Ngoubou, the elites of Olamze resident in Yaounde, the CNU subsection of Ze, Nyem, and Son, the elites of Mayo (Sorbon) — after their meeting in Yaounde yesterday — the association of the parents of the handicapped, in particular, for President Paul Biya's brilliant qualities of a statesman, moral and intellectual integrity, and his principles of vigor and loyalty. [sentence as heard]

Workers Union Calls for CNU Emergency Meeting

AB291530 Yaounde Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 29 Aug 83

[text] Following the resignation of Ahmadou Ahidjo as chairman of the Cameroon National Union party, CNU, the National Union of Cameroon Workers, NUCW, has called for an emergency meeting of the Central Committee of the CNU party. A communique from the NUCW, published in Yaounde today said such a meeting would be aimed at preventing political confusion and chaos which still pose a serious threat to the process of national construction. Meanwhile, the members of the NUCW declare their obligation to effectively contribute to the functioning of the CNU party.

CHAD

Habre Rejects Mitterrand Federation Proposal

AB310730 Paris AFP in English 0400 GMT 31 Aug 83

[Text] Ndjamena, Aug 31 (AFP) — President Hissein Habre expressed fear Tuesday that the Libyans will root themselves in the northern half of Chad as they did after occupying Chad's extreme northern Aozou Strip some years ago. He said the present military occupation of the north might turn into a "fait accompli".

"We fear that in two or three months, (the northern town of) Faya-Largeau will become a second Aozou," he said in an interview recorded by radio France international. President Habre also expressed worry about possible Libyan "agitation" in southern Chad: "We fear that the fire will spread still farther south. We have proof that commandos trained by Libya have infiltrated in the south."

When asked about the possibility of a federation between the ethnically-different north and south, as suggested recently by French President Francois Mitterrand, Mr Habre flatly rejected such a solution. "Advocating federation amounts to advocating division of Chad. We oppose the concept of federalism which nobody wants."

President Habre said he was willing to negotiate, but only with Libya and not with the ousted GUNT (Transitional Government of National Union) headed by Goukouni Oueddei, whom he called the "strawman" and "spokesman" of Libya's Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. "The aggressor is Libya, so Libya is the one to talk to." He said he was ready to "conclude a mutual non-aggression pact" with Tripoli.

There was no question of renouncing the claim to the Aozou Strip occupied by the Libyans since 1973: "Aozou has always been part of Chad. It was a French post before independence." President Habre said he was, in general, satisfied by President Mitterrand's recent interview on the Chad crisis because the French leader had "reaffirmed forcefully the necessity to safeguard Chad's territorial integrity and sovereignty." Mr Mitterrand had also "designated the aggressor by name".

Mr Habre denies there were any "misunderstandings" with France in the last few weeks. But the two governments might have followed "different approaches", he admitted. An example was the battle for Faya-Largeau, which the Libyans had bombed before capturing on Aug 10.

"We informed the French of the imminent danger to Faya-Largeau. We asked for France's intervention, especially by aviation and tanks. French intervention at that time would have stopped the Libyan advance. We regret that France did not have the same view of the situation." As for the means to recover all of Chad's territory, Mr Habre said that was "a problem for the Chadians to resolve."

Information Minister Cited on Developments

JN301958 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1755 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Text] Ndjamena, 30 Aug (SUNA) — The Chadian information minister today said that calm has prevailed in northern Chad over the past 3 days. He added that the enemy forces are massing south of Faya-Largeau and carrying out reconnaissance operations as far as the Koro-Toro area, while the government troops stationed in the Salal area are patrolling in the areas north of Salal and (Talm), nearly 40 km from Oum Chalouba.

Regarding the arrival of French military aid to Chad, the Chadian minister said French weapons are being sent to Chad to aid the Chadian Government troops, and other weapons are arriving for the French troops stationed in Chad. The minister did not disclose what type of weapons they were but said that the French are participating in the efforts to defend Chad. But yesterday, he said that France had sent 10 AMX [as received] tanks to arm the French troops in Chad.

CDR Spokesman Says Habre Regime 'Illegal'

AB301352 Paris AFP in French 1252 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Text] Paris, 30 August (AFP) — The Revolutionary Democratic Council [CDR] of Chad, one of the main factions of the Transitional National Union Government (GUNT) presided over by Goukouni Oueddei, considers President Hissein Habre's regime "illegal," Thiam Tidjani, one of the leaders of this faction, affirmed in Paris on Tuesday. "It is unthinkable that we should consider it 'legal' in view of the fact that we are one of the main organizations fighting against the rebel Hissein Habre, he specified to AFP.

Mr Tidjani, however, reaffirmed the CDR's position favoring the opening of negotiations between the Chadians, including Hissein Habre, without any preconditions. On Monday, Mr Tidjani stated that although Hissein Habre has been installed in Ndjamena where, according to some people, he represents legality, it is also true that in reality there is an obvious confrontation between two parties each of which is occupying half of the Chadian territory.

"We of the CDR, who are always faithful to the Lagos accords (which enabled the creation of the GUNT in 1979 and in which Mr Habre participated), are very anxious to clear away this misunderstanding and to reaffirm that the regime in Ndjamena is indeed illegal," he explained.

GABON

Bongo, French Envoy Discuss Situation in Chad

AB260858 Libreville Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 26 Aug 83

[Text] The president of the republic, El Hadj Omar Bongo, yesterday morning held a 1-hour discussion with Pierre Dabezies,French ambassador to Gabon. This is their second official meeting in 4 days. After the audience, Pierre Dabezies told the press that he and President Bongo exchanged views on the current situation in central Africa, particularly in Chad and Cameroon.

The French ambassador stated that President Bongo, who is somewhat the dean of heads of state in central Africa, in his concern for peace will examine in what way assistance could be given to the brotherly countries to help them solve their problems. Mr Dabezies, however, refused to comment on the situation in Chad and Cameroon, stating only that he supported the statements made by the French authorities on the two issues.

GHANA

Rawlings Issues Warning to 'Corrupt' Workers

AB301950 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Text] The chairman of the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council], Flight Lieutenant Rawlings, has again said that the government has a duty to perform to the state and it will do all in its power to accomplish that objective. Flight Lt Rawlings was speaking to workers of the Ministry of Trade in Accra this afternoon during a surprise visit in connection with a case of malpractice involving two officials who have allegedly stolen a special unnumbered license book [special importer's license]. The officials are Emmanuel Owusu and Seth Aboagye. There is an allegation that following the arrest of the two officials in connection with the crime, the WDC [Workers Defense Committee] of the Ministry of Trade went to the police station and secured their release.

Flight Lt Rawlings observed that the rule and management of a nation are not the same as the running of a sentimental charity club. He gave a warning to what he described as corrupt, opportunistic, and lazy parasitic citizens, who are making the mistake of claiming the noble title of a worker, that they are not fooling anyone but themselves. Chairman Rawlings said that if the PNDC has to move from one state corporation or institution to another weeding out these parasites, it will do it. It will also close down any such persistently parasitic outfit in the name of the suffering rural productive millions.

The PNDC chairman emphasized that societies survive and progress on the rule and enforcement of law for the sake of social order and meaningful economic goals and efficiency. He further emphasized that societies progress on dedication to duty and not on actions that have no scientific validity. Flight Lt Rawlings stressed that when it comes to crime there is no compromise, adding that no one is above the law. He advised the workers not to make the work of the government too heavy, too painful, and too difficult. The government, he said, will not sit down while few people work and others idle about.

Enin-Led PNDC Delegation Departs for DPRK

AB301945 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Text] A Ghana Government delegation led by Mrs Aanaa Enin, member of the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council], left Accra today for the DPRK. Other members of the delegation include Mr Idrissu Hudu Yahaya, PNDC secretary for northern region. They will take part in celebrations marking the 35th anniversary of the founding of the DPRK. Before their departure, Mrs Aanaa Enin described the visit as an important opportunity to further strengthen the existing friendly relations between Ghana and the DPRK. She believes that the achievements scored in the fields of politics, economy, and culture by the DPRK under the leadership of President Kim Il-song will greatly encourage Ghanaians, who are now on the stage of national democratic revolution.

According to Mr Choe U-chin, ambassador of the DPRK to Ghana, delegations from more than 100 countries will take part in the celebrations. He said the fact that the PNDC is sending a high-level government delegation to the celebrations reflects the excellent friendly relations between the DPRK and Ghana.

Corporal Executed for Judges' Murder 31 August

AB310720 Accra Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 31 Aug 83

[Text] Lance Corporal Michael Senya, who was sentenced to death by the public tribunal for the murder of the three high court judges and the retired army officer, was executed by firing squad at dawn today. His sentence has been confirmed by the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council].

LIBERIA

Joint Communique on Doe Visit to Israel

AB270940 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1730 GMT 26 Aug 83

[Final communique issued in Tel Aviv on 26 August 1983 following head of state Samuel K. Doe's visit to Israel — read by Foreign Affairs Minister Ernest T. Eastman in Monrovia]

[Text] Upon the invitation of His Excellency Hayim Herzog, president of the State of Israel, and His Excellency Menahem Begin, prime minister of the State of Israel, His Excellency Commander in Chief [CIC] Dr Samuel Kanyon Doe, head of state and chairman of the People's Redemption Council [PRC] of the Republic of Liberia, paid a state visit to the State of Israel 22-26 August 1983. The Liberian leader was accompanied by the following personages: Colonel Joseph K. Sampson, assistant secretary general, PRC; Colonel Larry Borteh, member of the PRC; Major John S. Nyumah, member of the PRC; Ernest Eastman, minister of foreign affairs; Major G. Elvin Jones, minister of finance; Major General Gray D. Allison, minister of defense; Major Peter Naigel, minister of information; Major Yudu Gray, minister of rural development; Major Patrick Minikor, minister of national security; Major James V. Burphys, minister of public works; and other high officials.

During the visit, the two leaders and their ministers exchanged views on matters of mutual concern, including global and regional questions, in a cordial atmosphere. The prime minister noted with satisfaction the timely decision of the Republic of Liberia to resume normal diplomatic relations with Israel on 13 August 1983 and a joint decision to reopen their embassies in their respective capitals. The two sides expressed the hope that the reestablishment of mutually beneficial relations between the Republic of Liberia and the State of Israel would be strengthened in the various fields and they agreed to broaden the scope of their cooperation in an effort to consolidate their relations.

The head of state also explained to the prime minister the task of national reconstruction being carried out by the PRC since the popular revolution of 12 April 1980. Prime Minister Begin thanked Head of State Doe for the bold decision taken by his government in resuming diplomatic ties with the State of Israel. He noted that continued isolation of Israel will not contribute to the search for a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. The prime minister highly commended the strides being made by the Republic of Liberia in (?efforts) to build a sound, self-reliant nation under the chairmanship of head of state Samuel Kanyon Doe. He expressed his country's willingness to contribute meaningfully to Liberia's development program.

On international affairs, both leaders reiterated their commitment to adhere to the principles enshrined in the UN Charter, particularly with respect to the necessity of maintaining solidarity among peoples and the realization of world stability and peace. The two leaders agreed that a comprehensive solution to the Middle East problem should be pursued in accordance with the Camp David agreement which is based on UN Resolutions 242 and 338. They reiterated their total rejection of all forms of racial discrimination and apartheid. As a result of detailed and fruitful talks between ministers accompanying the head of state and Israeli ministers and officials as well as senior representatives of Israeli companies, the heads of state and the prime minister have decided on cooperation between Israel and Liberia in a variety of important fields including the following:

1. Agriculture: The State of Israel will assist the Republic of Liberia professionally in reactivating the Agrimico Company in Liberia in cooperation with the Ministry of Rural Development and the Ministry of Agriculture of Liberia. Two experts from Israel will visit Liberia in October in order to study in depth this and other agricultural projects. The Government of Israel has offered to include Liberian candidates for courses in agriculture given in English in Israel and also to investigate possibilities for arranging all expansion [as heard] courses in Liberia in various aspects of agriculture.

2. Health: An Israeli expert will be sent to Monrovia to investigate possibilities of cooperation with the Government of Liberia in the field of tropical medicine. He will also examine the possibility of reactivating the (?ophthalmologic) medical center in Monrovia.

3. Road building and other construction: Given the urgency placed by the Government of the Republic of Liberia on the construction of a road network in various parts of the country, the Government of Israel will encourage with reputable Israeli companies with long-standing experience and specialized in wood construction to tender bids for projects planned by the Liberian Government. Emphasis was placed by the Liberian side on the need for capability of rapid transfer of heavy equipment and for assistance in obtaining international financing arrangements for these projects.

4. Shipbuilding: The Israeli National Shipping Company, ZIMM, will send in the very near future an expert to study the feasibility of setting up a Liberian shipping line, including the possibility of management agreements.

5. Air services: The Government of Israel will make every effort so that a highly qualified representative of one of the Israeli aviation companies will visit Monrovia in the near future to study possibilities of assisting Liberia professionally in expanding air services, both domestically and internationally.

6. Banking: The governor of the Bank of Israel has invited the governor of the National Bank of Liberia to visit Israel to study ways of cooperation between the two national banks as well as between private banks of both countries. Additional Israeli companies have undertaken that their representatives will visit Liberia to investigate possibilities of cooperation in fishing, telecommunications, and other fields.

The heads of state and the prime minister and their aides exchanged views on questions connected with the defense of Liberia, including possibilities of cooperation. Israel will cooperate in encouraging economic groups from third countries to invest in the economic development of Liberia. A team of Israeli technicians will be sent to Monrovia for the purposes of repairing the Liberian presidential plane. Liberia and Israel have agreed that holders of official passports from both countries will be able to enter each other's territory freely without the necessity of obtaining visas.

It is agreed that Israeli technicians and representatives of Israeli companies will be sent to Monrovia as soon as possible to undertake the necessary studies and discussions concerning cooperation in the above-mentioned paragraph. The Liberian head of state expressed his sincere appreciation for the warm reception and hospitality rendered to him and his party by the government and people of Israel. He cordially invited President Herzog and Prime Minister Begin to visit the Republic of Liberia at their earliest convenience. The invitations were accepted by the president and the prime minister. It was agreed that the dates of the visit of President Herzog and Prime Minister Begin will be arranged through diplomatic channels.

Signed: Samuel Kanyon Doe, head of State of Liberia, Menahem Begin, prime minister of Israel. Done in Jerusalem, 25 August 1983.

NIGERIA

Further House of Representatives Election Results

AB301300 Lagos NAN in English 1215 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Text] Kaduna, Aug 30 (NAN) — Fedeco [Federal Electoral Commission] yesterday released more results of the election to the House of Representatives. According to the results, the NPN [National Party of Nigeria] won all the 15 seats so far declared in Kaduna. In Kaduna south, Alhaji Mohammed Umar (NPN), won with 74,092 votes, Mr John Gauyi Dio (NPP) [Nigerian People's Party] 2,920; Malam Inuwa Dogo (PRP) [People's Redemption Party 2,912, Alhaji Monmoruhu Sabon Kudi (UPN) [Unity Party of Nigeria] 2,154, Alhaji Iro Sidi Ibrahim (GNPP) [Great Nigerian People's Party], 978 and Mr Farafiu Salau (NAP) [Nigeria Advance Party], 812.

In Daura-east, Alhaji Manzoh Abubakar (NPN), emerged winner with 49,777 votes; Malam Sanihyardaji (NPP) polled 11,668; Anwali Isaba (GNPP), 2,510; Lawal Pamzal (UPN), 1,777; while the NAP which did not field any candidate polled 67 votes. In

Daura-west, Alhaji Ilawal Nadari Daura (NPN) won with 40,956 votes; Alum Lawal Abdulahi (PRP), 8,580; Mapamhshuaibu Mohammed Katsayel (GNPP), 2,074; Alhaji Bala Yusuf Daug (UPN), 1,674, while NAP which did not field any candidate, scored 742.

In Chawin-Kausu, the NPN candidate, Alhaji Yunusa Biggah (NPP) 10,450; Mr Michael Chindu (UPN), [number indistinct]; Hajiya Maimuna Isa (GNPP), 1,216; while the PRP and NAP which did not field any candidates scored 2,955 and 486 votes respectively. In Ikara-Kubau, Alhaji Shuaibu Uba Aliyu (NPN), won with [number indistinct] votes, Malam Dwnladi Bissallah Amos (PRP), 12,231; Alhaji Sani Abdu Dutsan-Wai (NPP), 8,572; Alhaji Usa Idi (GNPP), 1,558; Malam Sule Garba (UPN), 1,533; and (NAP) which did not present any candidate polled 347 votes.

The NPN candidate, Malam Muhammadu Abdulkadir, won the Makarfi seat with 19,203 votes while Alhaji Ado Jibrin Guibi (NAP), polled 17,882 votes, Malam Hyarm Ahmed Xakarfi (PRP) 9,213, Alhaji Mohammed Ibrahim Kudan (UPN) 2,211, Alhaji Jafaru Dauda (GNPP), 1,108 and Alhaji Mohammed Mannir (NAP) 973 votes. In Bindwwi, Alhaji Sani Bindawa (NPN), was elected with 56,799 votes, Malam Sule Baure (PRP), 13,942, Alhaji Mohammed Lawal Omo (NPP), 4,245, the GNPP candidate, Malam Umaru Ali Bindawa, 671, while the UPN and NAP which did not field candidates polled 943 and 440 votes respectively.

In Mani, Alhaji Lawal Sule Mani (NPN), won with 49,707 votes, Alhaji Sani Magami (PRP) 8,978, Malam Gwanda Musa Isa (NPP), 2,584, Malam Abdu Sambawa (UPN), 966, Alhaji Muhammadu Sanda (GNPP), 936, and NAP which did not field any candidate, 543. In Mashi-Dutsi, Alhaji Umaru Mashi (NPN) won with 145,814 votes, Malam Usvan Idris Yvamal (PRP) 11,241, Alhaji Ihiya Xashi (NPP) 2,868, Malam Haruna Dan Maga (UPN), 2,378, Alhaji Abba Sani (GNPP) 1,046, and NAP which did not field any candidate, 1,399

Alhaji Rilwanu Mohammed (NPN) won the Kaita seat with 13,962 votes while Malam Ayuba Xaita (NPP), polled 2,939 votes. Malam Haruna Dankama (GNPP), 1,656, and Malam Iro Kaita (UPN), 1,181, the PRP and NAP did not present any candidates but polled 2,616 and 1,400 votes respectively. In Zaria north-west, Alhaji Salisu Sambo (NPN) won with 152,270 votes, Malam Gambo Shika (PRP) 21,999, Alhaji Lawal Jaji (NPP) 19,929, Alhaji Habib [name indistinct], 7,996, Malam Muhammadu Abdullahi (UPN), 5,895, and NAP which did not field any candidate, 1,999.

Alhaji Mairiga Jaginda (NPN) polled 30,121 votes to win the seat. [as received] Mr. George Sule Bako (GNPP), scored 16,058 votes, Malam Dogara Malam (UPN), 8,446, Mr. Samuel Danjuma Magaji (NPP), 2,873, Malam Adamu Nuyan Amul (PRP), 1,752 and NAP which did not field any candidate, 641. Malam Garba Musa (NPN), won the Jibia seat with 73,233 votes, Malam Aliyu Lado Jiba (NPP), 3,978, Alhaji Sani Ibrahim (PRP) 3,896 and Malam Sabiu Saabu 1,291. The NAP and UPN did not field any candidate but polled 818 and 6,953 respectively.

In Zarai Nbroh-east, Alhaji Umaru Soba (NPN), won with 48,438 votes, Alhaji Sarki Kundigi (NPP) 18,701, Malam Ibrahim Abdu (PRP), 12,864, Vxalam Ado Dan (UPC) 5,653 and Alhaji Sule Bala (GNPP) 1,258. The NAP did not field any candidate but scored 431. Malam Yakubu Shankey of the NPN polled 57,654 votes to take the Sangon-Kataf seat. Malam Dalhatu Gaes (NPP) polled 40,515 votes, Malam Yohanna Zamahi (GNPP), 1,342. The UPN, PRP and NAP did not field candidates but received 4,526, 3,823, and 638 votes.

In Sokoto, the NPN won all the 37 seats declared. Nine of the candidates were returned unopposed while seven were re-elected. Eighty candidates vied for the 37 seats. The NPN contested all the seats, the UPN, 19, NPP, 15, PRP, five and GNPP four. The NAP did not field any candidates.

In Bendel, the NPN won 18 seats of the 20 seats in the state. The other two seats went to the UPN. In Anambra, the NPN won 11 of the 16 seats declared so far. Thirteen more seats are yet to be declared in the state. The NPN won 19 seats in Cross River while the UPN took two. The 11 seats declared so far in Rivers went to the NPN. Three more are being awaited.

In Imo, NPP took 16 seats, the NPN, six, while 14 more are still to be declared. The NPN took eight seats in Benue while the NPP won three, leaving eight more seats yet undeclared. In Kwuka, NPN won four and the UPN three, while the UPN cleared 10 of the 12 seats declared so far in Ogun. The NPN also won 14 seats in Gongola and seven seats are yet to be declared. The 13 seats declared so far in Bauchi went to the NPN. Altogether 250 seats, including Abujas, have been declared with the NPN clearing 166 seats, the UPN 29, the PRP, 28, the NPP 27, GNPP and NAP none.

House Speaker Defeated

AB301400 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Text] The Federal Electoral Commission has so far announced 208 results of the elections held into the House of Representatives in 17 of the 19 states and the new federal capital territory, Abuja. Out of this the National Party of Nigeria, NPN, has 121 seats followed by the Nigeria People's Party, NPP, with 33 seats. The People's Redemption Party got 28 seats while the Unity Party of Nigeria won 26 seats. The Great Nigeria People's Party and the Nigeria Advance Party are yet to win a seat. One of the highlights of the latest results is the defeat of the speaker of the House of Representatives, Chief Edwin Ume-Ezeoke in Nnewi constituency by an NPN candidate.

NPN Wins 216 Seats

AB301915 Kaduna Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Text] Three hundred and thirteen of the results of the House of Representatives election have so far been declared. Out of this number, the National Party of Nigeria, NPN, won 216 seats; the

Unity Party of Nigeria, UPN, 32 seats; Nigeria People's Party, NPP, 27; and the People's Redemption Party, PRP, 38. A breakdown of the results shows that the NPN got seats as follows:

One in Abuja, all the 37 in Sokoto State, 19 in Bauchi State, 18 in Borno, 10 in Benue, 11 in Anambra, 18 in Bendel, 18 in Rivers, 14 in Gongola (7 seats remaining to be declared there), 2 in Kano, 19 in Cross River, 3 more are being awaited. Other NPN seats are 16 in Imo, 9 in Kwara, 3 in Niger, all the 22 so far in Kaduna, and 8 in Plateau.

The PRP got all the seats in Kano State. UPN got 10 seats in Ogun, 12 in Lagos, 4 in Kwara, 2 in Bendel, and 2 in Cross River State. The NPP got 5 seats in Anambra, 16 in Imo, 14 are being awaited, 3 in Benue, 2 from Kano State, and 1 in Niger State.

SENEGAL

Government Denies Establishing Ties With Israel

AB292115 Dakar Domestic Service in French 200 GMT 29 Aug 83

[Text] Senegal does not, in any way, want to reestablish diplomatic relations with the State of Israel as long as Israel refuses to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories or to recognize the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people who have the particular right to an independent and sovereign state in Palestine under the leadership of the PLO, their sole and legitimate representative. This was contained in a statement handed to the SENEGALESE PRESS AGENCY by Djibo Ka, the government spokesman. This statement is in response to an article on page 38 of the 1,6077th issue of the French weekly newspaper, *L'Express*, of 2 September, stating that officials of some African countries, including Senegal, are planning to meet in Abidjan in September to discuss the issue of reestablishing diplomatic relations with the Jewish state.

This is very strange because Senegal is the first African country south of the Sahara to welcome the establishment of a PLO office — later raised to the status of an embassy — on its territory. Senegal is also a member of the UN Commission for the Implementation of the Rights of the Palestinian People and has just demonstrated its solidarity with the Palestinian cause by sending an important delegation headed by Minister of State for External Affairs Moustapha Niasse to the Geneva conference on Palestinian issues.

UPPER VOLTA

Sankara Receives Malian Message of Congratulations

AB291217 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 0630 GMT 29 Aug 83

[Text] Head of state Captain Thomas Sankara yesterday received from his Malian counterpart a message worded as follows: As you take over the destiny of Upper Volta, I am particularly pleased to send you, on behalf of the people of Mali, their party, the Democratic Union of Malian People, their government, and on my own behalf my very cordial and warm congratulations. I am convinced that under your wise and shrewd leadership, the Upper Voltan people will continue to win more brilliant victories in all fields of the national construction. Be sure that Mali will not spare any efforts to develop and strengthen more friendly relations and brotherly cooperation which so fortunately exist between our two countries at the bilateral level and in regional and subregional organizations.

Wishing you full success in the fulfillment of your great mission, I express my very sincere wishes for your own happiness and for the courageous Upper Voltan people. Highest regards. General Moussa Traore.

Niger Envoy Comments on Sankara 'Revolution'

AB302055 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Excerpt] Captain Thomas Sankara, the president of National Council of the Revolution [CNR], received this afternoon Gourouza Magagi, Niger ambassador to Upper Volta who is based in Abidjan. The Niger diplomat, who was not able to attend the meeting that Capt Thomas Sankara held with the diplomatic corps accredited to Upper Volta, had come to pay him a courtesy call. When asked by the press to explain how the Upper Voltan revolution was viewed in Niger, Gourouza Magagi made the following statement:

[Begin Magagi recording] You know in Niger our principle is to respect ourselves, our neighbors, as well as our friends. It is obvious that the present events in Upper Volta do not leave Niger indifferent. Niger is, after all, a neighboring country, a friendly and brotherly country; therefore, Niger has to observe closely what is happening in neighboring countries and can but observe and subsequently express what it thinks. For the moment, I think that the Upper Voltan revolution is just beginning and we cannot do otherwise but observe and wait for the results to be able to assess the situation. [end recording]

Algerian Minister Delivers Bendjedid Message

AB291620 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 0630 GMT 29 Aug 83

[Text] Diplomatic news this weekend featured the visit to Ouagadougou of Boualem Bessaiah, member of the Central Committee of the FNL [National Liberation Front] and minister of information of the Algerian Democratic People's Republic, who brought a special message from President Chadli Bendjedid to Captain Thomas Sankara, the chairman of the National Council of the Revolution [CNR] and head of state.

Just after his arrival at the international airport of Ouagadougou on Saturday, 27 August 1983, on a special flight late in the morning, Mr Bessaiah was received at headquarters by head of state Capt Thomas Sankara, to whom he conveyed a personal message from President Chadli Bendjedid.

After the long audience he was granted by the leader of the Upper Voltan revolution, Boualem Bessaiah disclosed to newsmen that he came to convey to the chairman of the CNR a message of friendship from his brother and friend Chadli Bendjedid. The Algerian envoy further stated that this message shows the will of the two heads of state to continue dialogue and to strengthen bilateral relations between the two sister countries.

Concerning the relationship between Algeria and Upper Volta, the Algerian minister of information stated that his country thinks African countries must continue to inform each other, to cooperate, and to promote understanding, harmony, and solidarity. This is what Algeria seeks with Upper Volta.

In diplomatic circles in Ouagadougou, all the observers stress the fact that Mr Bessaiah is the first African minister to be received at the CNR since the government of Jean-Baptiste Ouedraogo was overthrown. This visit will strengthen relations between the new Upper Volta and socialist Algeria, whose progressive options are completely shared in Ouagadougou. Let us recall that just after the 4 August revolution, the ambassador of Algeria to Upper Volta, residing in Niamey, Niger, came to meet the new Upper Voltan authorities. He was received by Capt Thomas Sankara last 16 August.

The Algerian minister of information and his delegation left Ouagadougou yesterday morning at 1000 for Algiers. They were seen off by Adama Toure, our minister of information.

ANGOLA

Dos Santos Speaks on Cuban Withdrawal, Namibia

AB291200 Luanda ANGOP in French 1800 GMT 27 Aug 83

[Text] Luanda, 27 Aug (ANGOP) — "We do not accept that one demands the withdrawal of Cuban forces from Angola. What is needed instead is the unconditional and immediate withdrawal of the racist troops who have been occupying part of our territory in the south of Angola," Jose Eduardo dos Santos, the president of the MPLA-Labor Party and the People's Republic of Angola, stated on the arrival in Luanda of UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar. The Angolan head of state, who was addressing a rally staged in protest against imperialist maneuvers on the Namibian problem and against South Africa's acts of aggression against the People's Republic of Angola, reiterated the party and government's position on the issues.

The Angolan leader made it plain that "one must demand the immediate, unconditional withdrawal of South African troops now occupying the south of our territory, the rapid implementation of Security Council Resolution 435 which will lead to genuine independence in Namibia, an end to South Africa's acts of aggression against Angola as well as a halt to any military and logistic assistance to the UNITA puppet gangs which have been terrorizing our people." President Jose Eduardo dos Santos added that it is only under these conditions that Angola will be ready to examine with Cuba a new timetable for the gradual withdrawal of the Cuban forces from Angola where they are to ensure the country's security.

In the same vein, the Angolan president observed that "all those who claim to establish a link or draw parallels between Namibia's independence and the presence of Cuban troops in Angola are not our friends. They are our enemies, for they want to enable South Africa, which is already occupying part of our territory, to march up to Luanda without facing any possible resistance." He further said that the Angolan Government was ready to continue with the fighting and to initiate diplomatic moves toward a fair solution to the southern African problem.

In this connection, in his welcoming address to UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar, the Angolan head of state pledged Angola's readiness to continue to make every effort toward a just solution to the Namibia problem, a major stage in the action aimed at establishing a just and lasting peace in southern Africa. In this regard, the Angolan head of state pointed out that the Angolan people are fighting for a just peace, without any humiliation, any colonial or imperialist pressure, and without any concessions to apartheid. He also reiterated that the Angolan people are fighting for a peace which will result in the realization of their inmost aspirations for social well-being.

Throughout his address, Jose Eduardo dos Santos made it a point to recall that "to achieve its independence, the MPLA-Labor Party had to wage a long liberation struggle, which began on 4 February 1961 (?thus perpetuating) the popular traditions of the Angolan people as a fighting people." Then the Angolan leader spoke of the human sacrifices made by the Angolan people who are still ready to pursue the struggle in order to safeguard their hard won independence. He also insisted on the fact that "we are determined to continue the struggle so that Angola will be completely independent, and so that the South Africans will be driven out of Angola, and the UNITA puppet gangs annihilated." [passage indistinct]

Dos Santos Receives Visiting Sao Tomean Official

MB301330 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Text] Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, the president of the MPLA-Labor Party and the People's Republic of Angola, yesterday received Mrs Alda do Espirito Santo, a member of the Political Bureau of the Movement for the Liberation of Sao Tome and Principe [MLSTP] and the president of the National People's Assembly of Sao Tome and Principe, who has been visiting Angola since 26 August. President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and Mrs Alda do Espirito Santo spoke about the ties of friendship and fraternity between the MLSTP and the MPLA-Labor Party. Before she was received by the Angolan head of state, Mrs Alda do Espirito Santo and Comrade Lucio Lara, the MPLA Central Committee secretary for organization, signed a cooperation protocol, which is contained in the Angolan-Sao Tomean joint communique following talks held between the two leaders.

The communique pointed out that the talks had enabled the two delegations to examine their bilateral relations and to study means of strengthening and developing them. With a view to developing cooperation between the People's Republic of Angola and the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe, the final communique pointed out, both sides have decided to strengthen and activate the Angolan-Sao Tomean joint commission. The two sides condemned the linkage policy, relating the independence of Namibia to the withdrawal of the internationalist Cuban troops from Angola. They reaffirmed that the only way to solve the issue is the implementation of UN Resolution 435 of 1978. The two parties also demanded the withdrawal of the South African forces from Angolan areas that they occupy.

The two sides condemned foreign interference in the internal affairs of Chad, pointing out that the solution of the issue should be left to the conflicting parties. The Angolan-Sao Tomean joint communique also reaffirmed the two countries' support for the struggle of the Saharan and Palestinian patriots for their self-determination.

Dos Santos Responds to Birthday Greetings

MB291235 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 29 Aug 83

[Text] On the occasion of the anniversary of Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos' 41st birthday a brief ceremony was held at the Futungo de Belas in Luanda yesterday attended by members of the party Political Bureau, the Central Committee, the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FAPLA] General Staff, and some members of the diplomatic corps accredited to our country who came to greet the supreme leader of the party and the nation. On the occasion, Colonel Pedro Maria Tonha Pedale, our country's defense minister, read a message of greetings from the glorious fighters of the Angolan Armed Forces to the FAPLA commander in chief, in which they reaffirmed their wish to continue the struggle against the invading enemy.

[Begin recording] Comrade President, we have come here to reaffirm to you that we shall make the anniversary of your birth a decisive day of struggle. We still feel the warmth of your recent words during the visit by the UN secretary general on 26 August 1983. Comrade Commander in Chief, we shall make your words our strength, our action, and our motive. We will drive the South African racists out of our sacred land. Indeed, Comrade Commander in Chief, we will sweep out the puppets and annhilate them because we are and will continue to be the armed wing of the Angolan people.

For our heroes, our pioneers, our worker-peasant alliance, the banner of Marxism and Leninism, proletarian internationalism, and for the fatherland of Agostinho Neto we will continue to fight so that there may be peace in every locality, village, town, factory, farm, school, and household because we want to be the last generation to be sacrificed by this unjust war. May your dynamism, your clear-sightedness, and firmness continue to guide us in this long and arduous, but certain and glorious, process.

We would like you, on the anniversary of your birth, 28 August 1983, to receive from this delegation of young fighters from Cangamba, on behalf of all fighters of the glorious fighters, theAngolan Armed Forces, warm and revolutionary greetings — greetings from fighters who are consciously fulfilling the sacred duty on the battlefronts of Cabinda, Cunene, Cuando Cubango, and Moxico, in short, every area where there is a fighter with weapon in hand to bring about peace. [end recording]

In reply to messages of greetings, the president of the MPLA-Labor Party and of the People's Republic of Angola, Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, made a brief speech, which we now rebroadcast:

[Begin recording] Comrade officers of the Armed Forces, dear comrade fighters, representatives of our heroic fighters in Cangamba: I have heard with all my attention the messages read here and addressed to me in which you emphasized most of the qualities that you comrades believe that I have. I sincerely thank you for having come today to once again congratulate me on the occasion of the aniversary of my birth, but, above all, to reaffirm your unshakable desire for us to march on together to continue to defend our fatherland, revolution, and party, thus ensuring the materialization of the most noble aspirations of workers, peasants, and all Angolan citizens devoted to the cause of socialism.

In this brief ceremony it is worth mentioning the presence of comrade fighters who for several days defended our sovereignty, defended our revolution in Cangamba. This heroic act by these brave FAPLA fighters is particularly important now because had it not, in fact, been carried out we perhaps would not be celebrating this date with so much tranquillity. The enemy had macabre plans against us, against our young people's republic. But these plans were not carried out in full because our brave fighters in Cangamba were able to demonstrate the determination of the Angolan people. They were, above all, able to follow the example of our heroes; of all those who, throughout our history, have lost their lives in every phase and stage of the struggle so that our dignity, independence, and liberty could be respected.

I think we shall have another opportunity to be together with these comrades. They are alive and will be able to speak about the heroic acts carried out by those who are no longer with us. We have lost many fighters, and we have, accordingly, lost some of our fatherland's best sons. We are writing our history with blood and much sacrifice. Cangamba does not look the same. We must follow as an example the bravery of our glorious FAPLA fighters in Cangamba: all of us — party members and leaders of the party and state.

Although this is a festive day, we cannot dissociate this day from our daily life. The time is still one of sacrifice. The defense of our revolution and fatherland will demand from us further sacrifices. On this day I would also like to reaffirm that I will try, within my capabilities, to place at the service of our people, our revolution, and our party my efforts and knowledge so that we may continue to march on together to carry out our party program, to carry out, in short, the aspirations of the Angolan working class and the aspirations of all those who want to see Angola independent, prosperous, socialist, and strong.

In conclusion, I would like to tell you comrades that I am particularly moved by the words exprressed here. Above all, I would like to thank you very sincerely for the gifts on this day and, particularly, for some of the armaments captured from the enemy, which demonstrates that despite its maneuvers and increasing belligerence, our people will win and the ideals for which our party has always fought in pursuance of the program of the MPLA movement will eventually materialize.

Thank you very much, comrades, and enjoy the celebrations. [end recording]

LESOTHO

DPRK Opens Embassy Offices in Maseru 29 August

MB291315 Maseru Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 29 Aug 83

[Text] The offices of the Embassy of the DPRK opened in Maseru today shortly after the charge d'affaires of the Korean Embassy, Mr (An Hyong-hyon), presented his letter of appointment to the minister of foreign affairs, The Honorable E.R. Sekhonyana. The embassy, which opened with four diplomats, is expected to be headed by an ambassador as soon as possible.

MADAGASCAR

Results for National People's Assembly Election

AB291730 Paris AFP in French 1105 GMT 29 Aug 83

[Text] Antananarivo, 29 Aug (AFP) — The minister of interior on Monday gave the first results — complete but provisional — of last Sunday's voting to elect 137 members of the National

People's Assembly. The results are complete but not yet official for six provincial capitals of the island.

In the capital Antananarivo, (eight seats) where the turnout was 62 percent, the Congress Party for Malagasy Independence (scientific socialism) of Reverend Andriamanjato, obtained two seats(53,964 votes); the National Movement for the Independence of Madagascar (for an authentic Malagasy socialist opposition), of Monja Jaona two seats (52,960 votes); the Vanguard of the Malagasy Revolution, Arema, of President Didier Ratsiraka, two seats (49,346 votes); the Militants for the Establishment of a Proletarian Regime of Manandafy Rakotonirina, one seat (23,262 votes), and the VONJY [expansion unknown] of Dr Razanabahiny Marojama, one seat (8,315 votes). In the five other regional capitals, which had to vote for one parliamentarian each, the candidates elected were, according to the provisional results, all members of the Arema.

MOZAMBIQUE

Machel Greets Al-Qadhdhafi on Anniversary

MB301753 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1700 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Text] President Samora Machel has sent a message of congratulations to Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi on the occasion of the 14th anniversary of the great 1 September Revolution. On behalf of the people and Government of the People's Republic of Mozambique, and on his own behalf, President Samora Machel hails the victories won by the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in building a new Libya and reaffirms solidarity with the Libyan people in the face of imperialist maneuvers against it. As we repeat our greetings on the occasion of this 14th anniversary, we reaffirm our desire to even further strengthen the relations of friendship, solidarity, and mutually advantageous cooperation existing between our states for the progress and well being our peoples, says the message of the supreme leader of the Mozambique revolution.

Army Cleans up Inhambane; Prisoners Displayed

MB291253 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1100 GMT 29 Aug 83

[Text] A Mozambican Army offensive against South African-backed Quizumba bandits has swept through almost the entire Province of Inhambane. According to the provincial military commander, Major General Domingos Fondo, in recent weeks bandit camps have been destroyed in Mabote, Vilanculos, and Mambone in the north of the province, and several other districts in the center and southern part of the province. They have also destroyed one in Jangamo next to the provincial capital. Gen Fondo was speaking at Saturday's mass rally in the town of Maxixe. The rally was headed by a company of the Mozambican Armed Forces, which had just returned from a successful assault on bandit camps in Massinga district. The general displayed to the crowd two lorryloads of captured bandits. Some of them had been captured by the Army, he said, while others were either taken prisoner by the local population or gave themselves up voluntarily to the authorities.

Four truckloads of weaponry captured from the bandit gangs and good that were stolen by the bandits from the local population and had now been recovered by the Army were also displayed. These goods include bicycles and motorbikes, tape recorders and record players, and a large number of pots, pans, and other domestic utensils. Gen Fondo promised that these material would be returned to owners.

The fury of the crowd toward the bandits was such that a hail of sticks and stones rained down on the trucks containing the prisoners. The Army had to intervene to save the captured bandits from the wrath of the crowd. The Inhambane provincial governor, Jose Pascal Zandamela, said the bandits put on display were only a few of those neutralized in the province. He promised that bandits who surrendered would be pardoned, but warned that there would be no clememcy for those who persist in their criminal activities.

NAMIBIA

SWAPO Said Ready To Agree to Cease-Fire

MB301319 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0919 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Text] Harare, Aug 30, SAPA — SWAPO is ready to agree to a ceasefire and to co-operate with the United Nations secretary-general in bringing about a speedy implementation of UN Resolution 435 for the independence of SWA/Namibia "without modification." This was spelt out in a letter submitted to the UN secretary-general, Mr Javier Perez de Cuellar, last week during his visit to southern Africa, by the SWAPO president, Mr Sam Nujoma, according to the page one lead story in *The Herald*, Zimbabwe's major morning newspaper, today.

In his letter, made available to *The Herald*, Mr Nujoma said he wanted to restate his organisation's position on its willingness to assist in bringing about the early independence of SWA/Namibia. But he stressed that this could only be within the framework of UN Resolution 435 "without modification, amendment, or extraneous and irrelevant issues of linkage and reciprocity being insisted upon."

Mr Nujoma said the special efforts to pursue the Namibian question should not be compromised or lost as long as that country was not totally free or under the full control of the SWA/Namibians themselves. "Our great desire to co-operate with the United Nations and the international community to resolve the Namibian question is expressed in our participation in the negotiations for a settlement. But while we are participating in this noble exercise the South African regime, through the administrator-general, has further entrenched itself, and through legislation banned all political activity of SWAPO."

He appealed to the UN secretary-general for the: "immediate lifting of restrictions that make SWAPO political activities in public impossible; removal of restrictions inhibiting movement, area of stay and work of SWAPO cadres; granting of prisoner-of-war status for SWAPO members taken captive while fighting to liberate their country; immediate and unconditional release of SWAPO members serving long terms on Robben Island Prison;

and release of SWAPO cadres taken hostage during the Cassinga raid in Angola."

SWAPO's Nujoma Pledges Further Struggle

EA281708 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1900 GMT 27 Aug 83

[Text] Dar es Salaam — The president of the Namibian liberation movement, SWAPO, Ndugu Sam Nujoma, has said although South Africa has destructive weapons, this will not stop the momentum for the lliberation of Namibia. He said SWAPO is determined to intensify the political and military struggle until the full liberation of Namibia is achieved. Ndugu Nujoma's pledge was given in his speech marking Namibia Day issued by the SWAPO office in Dar es Salaam today. Explaining the armed struggle in Namibia, which began 17 years ago, the SWAPO leader said currently more than two-thirds of that country is affected by the liberation struggle in one way or another.

Ndugu Nujoma said the Boer regime of South Africa is spending nearly 40 million shillings per day on the Namibia war and Ndugu Nujoma pledged that SWAPO will intensify the struggle in order to cause more losses to South Africa. The leader said that the Boer regime, in intensifying the Namibia war, has been compelled to borrow a great deal of money from Western countries. Ndugu Nujoma said that by the middle of this year the Boer regime in Namibia had debts of about 5 billion shillings, and its is believed that by the middle of next year the amount will rise to 7 billion shillings. These debts are separate from the debt of 12 billion shillings borrowed by the regime from the International Monetary Fund, IMF, recently.

Johannesburg: 663 SWAPO, 91 Civilians Killed in 1983

MB261305 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 26 Aug 83

[Text] The South-West Africa Territory Force has announced in Windhoek that 663 SWAPO terrorists have been shot dead by the Security Force since the beginning of this year. This brings the total number of terrorists killed in the bush war since it started 17 years ago to 7,894. Ninety-one civilians have so far been killed in the operational area this year. Of those, 15 were killed in landmine explosions, 45 were murdered by terrorists, and 30 were killed in crossfire exchanges. SWAPO has kidnapped 264 civilians since the beginning of the year.

SOUTH AFRICA

Foreign Minister Requests UN Mission to Angola

MB300805 Johannesburg International Service in English 0630 GMT 30 Aug 83

[Text] South Africa has asked the UN secretary general, Dr Javier Perez de Cuellar, to send a UN mission to Angola to investigate accusations that South African aircraft had bombed civilian targets at the town of Cangamba. Angola says South African troops occupied the town, which is about 700 km southeast of Luanda and 650 km north of the border with South-West Africa/Namibia, after intense aerial bombardment with Impala and Canberra fighters.

The South African foreign minister, Mr Roelof Botha, says in a letter to the secretary general that Cangamba is out of range of Impala aircraft with bomb loads. Mr Botha said Canberras are only used for reconnaissance. He said Cangamba is occupied by the Angolan resistance movement, UNITA. But, said Mr Botha, if there was any doubt about it, he strongly appealed to the secretary general to send a mission as a matter of urgency to visit Cangamba to determine conclusively who in fact was responsible for the aerial bombing of Cangamba. Dr Perez de Cuellar visited South Africa, South-West Africa/Namibia, and Angola last week in an attempt to speed up an independence settlement in South-West Africa/Namibia.

ANC Secretary General 26 Aug Address

AB261220 Dakar PANA in English 1205 GMT 26 Aug 83

[Text] Mulungushi Rock, 26 Aug (ZANA/PANA) — South Africa is using political pressure on independent southern African states to force them to abandon their international obligation toward refugees. Addressing delegates to the 9th UNIP [United National Independence Party] general conference here, ANC Secretary General Alfred Nzo, said political and economic pressure being applied by the racist regime on countries like Lesotho is a result of the intensification of the freedom struggle in South Africa.

Mr Nzo said intensified brutality against freedom fighters and aggression against neighboring countries by the apartheid regime have failed to destroy the struggle for freedom. Mr Nzo said most South Africans of all races have become disenchanted with the apartheid policies as manifested by the formation of the United Democratic Front. The front, which was formed in Cape Town recently, has identical aims with the ANC — the establishment of a free and democratic society for all South Africans.

Mr Nzo described UNIP and other political parties in the frontline states as logical allies of the South African struggle, adding that their solidarity with the ANC is as strong as a rock. "With their support and that of the OAU and of the socialist countries, we cannot fail to achieve our ultimate objectives," Mr Nzo said. He paid tribute to President Kaunda for his dedication to pan-Africanism, adding that the OAU has survived due to efforts of its dedicated defenders like Dr Kaunda. [passage indistinct]

SWAZILAND

Premier Addresses Nation on Royal Family Conflict

MB291943 Mbabane Domestic Television Service in siSwati 1645 GMT 29 Aug 83

[Speech by Prince Bhekimpi, prime minister of Swaziland, at Government House in Mbabane on 29 August — recorded]

[Text] My fellow countrymen, I would like to clarify to the whole nation, to all Swazis, matters relating to rumors circulating in the country and grumblings of discontent over the direction the country is heading. I feel led to do this so that the nation will know where we are heading and so that people will stop asking all sorts of questions in the streets. Swazis know the correct channels for finding out about matters concerning the Swazi nation, and this cannot be done in the street. If it is a royal matter, everybody knows where all inquiries should be directed; likewise the same applies in matters concerning chiefs, schools, and so on.

As the prime minister, I would like to say that we are not happy about what is happening in the country's streets, where anonymous notes are found strewn about. Everyone who has questions concerning royal matters should know that these must be directed to the elders on the nation. This is what I would like to say on the question of where our country is heading. The elders have already pointed out the way to us all, and as Swazis we should follow their lead and not concern ourselves with anything to the contrary.

Let me explain briefly the cause of all this ruckus. On 2 August the former queen regent, Dzeliwe, held discussions in council, and this is where the royal family found that all was not well within the royal family. The royal family, therefore, set about putting their house in order, as they are the ones charged with the duty of preserving the monarchy; hence the decision they took that was broadcast to the nation. Some of you are questioning the timing for such a decision, but you should know that the elders knew what they were doing. They, therefore, decided, as you have heard in the broadcasts of the past weeks, that the heir apparent is Makhosetive. That is where the nation is heading.

On the day of that announcement it was made clear that the royal family, chiefs, and councilors would in due course be called to the royal cattle byre to be informed about Swazi custom and usage. This was quickly done through newspapers and radio and television broadcasts because it was expedient, since delays might in this case have caused problems. This kind of announcement is, under normal circumstances, first issued in the royal cattle byre.

My fellow countrymen, you are, therefore, notified that the chiefs and the royal family will still be called to the royal cattle byre and told according to law and custom, where matters in the country are leading. This should put paid to rumormongering in the streets by individuals who do not even have the right to be asking questions. Even the chiefs, after being advised on matters concerning the country at the cattle byre, do nothing more than express their appreciation for the message delivered.

As tradition has it, we have from time immemorial had kings, successors to the throne appointed by the elders, and we as people have never questioned anything. All we did was accept it in good faith. This should be the case, even today. Now that the way has been pointed out to us all, our duty as Swazis is to nurture the heir apparent and accept him with open arms. Anyone diverting from this course of action will have to accept the consequences. I do not believe that there is even one Swazi who wishes to break with this tradition. If there is anybody who still does not understand he should direct himself to the elders of the nation and not look to the opinion on the street, which is bound to mislead him. This, therefore, my countrymen, is the clarification we would like to give the nation.

Now that we all know what course to take, let us channel our energies in the right direction and pray that the monarchy will be maintained. With the demise of our dear king last year we can have faith in the leadership of our elders and know that they have had very good reason to decide as they have. It is the elders of the nation who appoint kings, and they again are the ones who know how a king is deposed. We, the rest of the nation, know little concerning such matters and should, therefore, take their lead.

We hear now that there are children who have taken it upon themselves to ask questions. Unfortunately, we are at a loss as to where they get their information. We, the Swazis, and in particular, the royal family, suspect that there is someone who is stoking the fires of disharmony and discontent. We see that there are those who are attempting to destroy the Swazi nation, that there are people who tried to misdirect the former queen regent. They are the ones who have led her into this unfortunate state of affairs. It was not their business, but that of the elders of the nation. These misdirected persons are well known.

As I have already indicated, on 2 August the queen regent was called to discuss a matter that was developing among the nation's elders. According to Swazi law and custom, there is nothing that the king can do by himself, without first consulting with the nation's elders and the Liqoqo [Supreme Council of State]. All matters put before the nation are released with the consensus of this joint consultation. The saying that the monarch's mouth is one that tells no lies derives from the fact that any matter broadcast to the nation has been thoroughly inspected for likely flaws by the king in council.

Yet on 2 August it did so happen that the queen regent made an announcement to the nation without first consulting with the nation's elders, hence this ruckus. I would, therefore, like to make it clear to the nation that the entire present disagreement is a matter concerning only the royal family and has nothing to do with the nation as a whole. The rest of the nation should maintain silence on the matter and patiently wait for the royal family to resolve it. It has, however, become apparent that there are those from the outside who think they can butt in. These are contenders. As the authorized person said earlier when addressing the nation, all matters under discussion by the elders of the nation should not be discussed in any way by the younger members of the royal families, since these matters are being discussed by their elders.

The younger members of the royal family can discuss such matters when they have reached their status as elders. When Makhosetive is king, they can discuss minor matters with their parents, but in matters of this magnitude concerning the nation they cannot take part, unless they want to be contenders. The elders of the nation, therefore, decided to end the bickering by revealing the true heir to the nation, whose mother will be the queen mother. In accordance with Swazi custom and tradition, it, therefore, became necessary for the former queen regent's duties to be assumed by the heir's mother, to prevent any further deterioration in the status of the monarchy resulting from the former queen regent's misrule.

I, therefore, would like today to assure the nation that there is nothing adverse happening in the country. It is only that there are people who are intent on causing disharmony in the country by rambling on about matters which they know little about, concerning the traditions and customs of the country. We as Swazis know that only the elders have the right to talk about matters concerning the monarchy, those few secret elders who we do not even know. That these elders know who they are is sufficient. While individuals to whom our traditions and customs are foreign may ask about them, the true Swazi knows that there are those who are the kingmakers and that they are not publicly known.

We are indeed fortunate that the late king foresaw that certain situations might arise and provided for the establishment of the Liqoqo constitutionally. The Liqoqo is a body based on old Swazi custom and tradition, but it was not established on paper. He wanted to ascertain that there would be no question concerning the legitimacy of the body and its duties, as it seems to be the case now. The Liqoqo is a body whose members were appointed by the late King Sobhuza II. We are grateful for this great insight on his part. He foresaw that he could not leave the nation without firm leadership to run the country. The monarchy has always had an advisory body to the king, and this is still the case, even though this body has a larger membership. Anything that the monarch does has to be done with the consensus of the advisory body. It is this very body, then, my countrymen, that some individuals were attempting to overrule, and these individuals tried to disturb the good traditions and customs of the nation as well. It is this same body that took timely action to stem any far reaching disruption of the smooth running of the country's monarchy.

I would, therefore, like to advise the nation not to be confused by rumors. This monarchy is the same as yesterday's monarchy, and we are looking ahead and supporting Makhosetive, who is now our king from today onwards. Anyone who disagrees with this is a contender. Let all know, therefore, that all these rumblings of discontent point to those who have become contenders in matters which concern nobody but the royal family. We would also like to bring it to the attention of the nation that all Swazis will be called to the royal cattle byre in time by the nation's elders, who will then inform us of all according to custom.

I therefore, hope my countrymen, that we all realize that fortunately the elders are working on the nation's affairs. In Swaziland everything is done in an orderly manner, and all matters are conducted according to Swazi law and tradition so that she who takes over, as in the case of the royal wife LaThwala, takes over in accordance with accepted tradition. Similiarly, the authorized person is the one who is allowed by law to take over when the queen regent is unable to carry out her duties. The present authorized person is no novice in such matters. He has worked with the late king, and he was always there when serious matters of the nation were under discussion. It is Swazi tradition that demands that when there is no king, the royal family, under the leadership of the authorized person, takes over the overseeing of the nation and the queen mother and regent. It is so today. When the elders of the nation have finished with their deliberations, the nation will be duly notified.

In weeks past, you all heard about cases presented before the high court involving the authorized person, the Liqoqo, and the prime minister. Looking at this closely one can see that this was in direct opposition to Swazi law and custom. According to custom and tradition, the matters taken to court are not to be discussed in a court of law. They are matters that should in all truth be confined to the royal kraal at Lobamba. Matters concerning the monarchy never enter a court of law. Even during the Westminister type democracy such matters were never discussed in law courts but were left to tradition. This step then made us aware of something wrong at Lobamba. Were things running smoothly, there would have been no such court hearings as these.

Unfortunately our judicial officers were not aware of the implication of the application challenging the validity of the royal procedure, and they accepted the application without much ado. They accepted a matter that did not belong to their jurisdiction. The elders then realized that if the courts have any say in this matter, that would signal the end of the institution of monarchy in this country or a gradual erosion of the prestige of the position of the crown as has been usually accepted. So they realized that a method had to be devised to forestall this action proceeding any further; hence the decree issued last week forbidding the courts to have anything to do with this royal matter. We are grateful that prompt action was taken according to Swazi law and custom to avoid dirty laundry being aired in front of the children, resulting in greater distress than had been anticipated.

It was our misfortune that this matter reached the courts. Who was behind this move, pushing it forward? Was it the former queen regent or this anonymous council, operating in the dark, pursuing its selfish ends? If they were authentic Swazis, would they have brought such a matter to court? They should have summoned those charged with the responsibility of resolving such matters. Those who installed this former regent are still all alive and well. There has been no reduction through death. These are the people who appointed Makhosetive as successor when the king died last year, as Swazi tradition demands be done immediately after the death of the reigning king. I just want to clarify to the nation that all this commotion would have not have grown so, until it reached the courts, had it not been for those who were fanning the flames behind scenes. They should respectfully desist from fanning flames in this Kingdom of Swaziland. That is my honest request.

Recently, it has been noted that they are influencing schoolchildren to be part of demonstrations. Listen! Our children are only sent to school for educational purposes and not for politicization. Political matters are restricted to the duly chosen ones, not even the whole Swazi nation. Our role as a nation is to accept with gratitude the direction which the elders have mapped out for the country. It is now apparent that there are troublemakers who are promoting this commotion for their selfish ends. Are they acting for the good, or are they just pranksters? Nobody knows.

As prime minister, I have been sent by the elders to clarify the position, to ease the minds of the Swazi nation. If the nation is uncertain about a particular matter, it has to inquire at the proper places and not rely on hearsay. If you are far away, you ask your chief. If you are near the royal household, you will get it first hand at the royal cattle byre. Chiefs are entrusted with the task of explaining to their subjects whatever was discussed at the cattle byre. If the nation has not been summoned to the royal cattle byre, let us hold our tongues until we hear what is said atthe meeting in the royal cattle byre. We should not indulge in petty discussions that may spark disastrous results for Swaziland.

This country was meant to be peaceful. That was Sobhuza II's mandate. Peace abounding in the country means prosperity for the nation. A rowdy country always experiences difficulties. We hope that the Swazi nation will listen to the advice given, regardless of social standing and age. Whoever goes about doing what is counter to the directives of the elders, the law will be ruthless in its application in correcting the errant behavior. We do not expect that there will be anyone here in Swaziland who will willfully disobey the law. Everyone has to comply with the legal norms. In short, I feel I should strongly clarify this matter: We only expect peace in this country with people pursuing their different callings, as we have done in the past. If there is anyone grumbling tell him: We have heard from the elders and we know the path to be followed. We will follow the elders and senior royalty in their footsteps, as they have already indicated that they foresaw some trouble with the way the former queen regent was operating in office. They simply removed the responsibility to avoid any catastrophe. It was obvious that a cancer had invaded the former queen regent's domain, and that the status of the monarchy was being endangered by those pursuing their own selfish ends. That is the very thing we Swazis detest and would not like to see happen in the Kingdom of Swaziland. We hope that even those who were misled through ignorance will recant and fall in line with Swazi custom and usage. Even those who were grumbling with dissatisfaction, let it be clear to them as of today that there is no reason and room for dissatisfaction. All of us are moving forward. We are going to work constructively and progressively. There is no major calamity in the body politic of Swaziland.

As I have already mentioned, there are specific bodies that handle specific functions. Those who appoint the monarch are known. How the monarch is unseated from his throne is their special knowledge. It is not our job to question the appointments and dismissals. We just give thanks at what we have been handed. That is all. Regardless of whether it is good or bad, or whatever, we will accept it provided it comes from the elders of the nation. A mandate from the elders sets the guidelines for the procedure to be followed at present.

We are looking up to Makhosetive. He is the one who will be our king here in Swaziland. That is where all our focus is directed, as from today. That Makhosetive's mother will be our queen mother, that is where the focus is directed — nothing else. How they go about the job of making these changes there at the royal residence is not our business. Certain persons have been entrusted with that responsibility. It is the elders' job. We just accept their directives and proceed from that.

My fellow countrymen, I am now ending the message from the elders of the nation. Let it be clear to you from today that this is how it is. Let there be no grumbling and dissatisfaction. Let no one be misled by another. Let no one accept what he has not been enlightened about. All the people of Swaziland will accept as truth what has been handed down by the elders. There should be no occasion when there is shouting in the streets with alarmist directives. Who can raise alarm except the custodians of the monarchy, the elders? It is the elders, together with the senior princes and princesses, who will decide on the matter, as they are responsible for this matter. That is all that we expect from them.

I was instructed by them, in my capacity as prime minister, to lead the country in the particular direction they have mapped out. The main concern is about the preservation of the insitution of the monarchy in Swaziland. Nothing else overshadows this. There will be no other arbiters in this case. We are confident that the courts have understood our reasoning for placing this matter beyond jurisdiction. Possibly, when the matter came before the courts, the courts were not aware of the finer points of Swazi custom. We hope that they will be grateful for our intervention saving them the embarassment of fumbling. The courts are not being deprived of their duties to adjudicate cases, however, there are limits as to what is to be dealt with in open court.

Some will mistake this action as a sign of interference with the judicial independence of the courts. That is not so. This royal matter concerning accession to the throne has a special committee dealing with it. It has no place on the court docket. Royal family matters are beyond the purview of the courts. This is Swazi custom and usage, stripped of all its intricacies. The royal family sorts out the problem within the palace, and then the royal family publicly announces to the nation what they have determined to do. It was really a near tragedy, my fellow countrymen, that the courts were nearly drawn into this dispute. Even our youngsters have been inadvertently drawn into the matter, holding street demostrations.

We sincerely hope, my fellow countrymen, that everyone in Swaziland has now received proper clarification and understanding of the matter. The authorized person and the Liqoqo are responsible for the [word indistinct] of the country and the preservation of the monarchy. We are all bound by the same motivation, as this was left as an instruction by his late majesty, King Sobhuza II.

His late Majesty Sobhuza II conceived the idea of appointing the Liqoqo members during his lifetime to avoid any mixup and confusion after his departure from this life. There were indications even then that there were wolves in sheep's clothing. They appeared to be beautiful innocents, but deep down inside they had nasty intentions. I hope that even individudais such as these have understood this message, and that they will cease their previous actions and totally refrain from errant behavior in future. I hope that they will, from now on, do what is good, which will be appreciated by the Swazi nation. All that we do here in Swaziland, my fellow countrymen, is only done for the betterment and improvement of the quality of life for the Swazi nation, in accordance with Swazi law, custom, and usage. If there is some rot setting in, there is a way of meeting that problem, a method of Swazi surgical precision. No one wants to see cancer spread throughout the nation. We expect the country to progress by leaps and bounds in a good direction.

When I assumed this office, my fellow countrymen, assuming the office of prime minister, I discovered a lot of administrative faults which were hindering progress. When we requested more funds for the budget, there we drew a blank, as the coffers of the nation were empty, without proper accounting as to where the money was actually spent. We are still going to thoroughly investigate this matter. By the way, schools were almost closed this year because of lack of funds, and no explanation was forthcoming as to what had happened to the financial resources. Our government is about to take appropriate steps to unearth the cause of all this bungling. Most development projects have been suspended, are incomplete, for lack of funds. We do not know, my fellow countrymen, whether we embarked on too many projects with insufficient capital, or if it is a case of plain inefficiency. We are going to be thoroughly careful in our reviewing activities.

Another point, my fellow countrymen before I close the speech, concerns the elections that were scheduled to take place this year, as you had already heard. Indeed, I strongly emphasize it today, that general elections will be held in October this year, that is, on Friday, 28 October 1983. As you know that the last elections were held in 1978, thus it has been 5 years, and therefore, it is now time for new elections, in accordance with parliamentary procedures. So today I emphasize to the nation that it should be prepared to take part in the electoral proceedings to choose new members of parliament. Election officials will be visiting the various district voting centers explaining the procedures during the coming months.

My fellow countrymen, as you have already heard that the existence of dissatisfaction and grumbling might cause the elections to be postponed or canceled — we hope that will not happen. There will be elections. Everything is proceeding according to plan, my fellow countrymen. There were rumors that there would be no elections held this year, a result of the misguided rabble-rousers who misdirected the monarch, without anybody asking them. When the queen regent hinted to the Liqoqo that there might be a postponement of elections, the Liqoqo and the elders adamantly insisted that the elections proceed as scheduled. They could not afford to deviate from this customary procedure.

This is what I wanted to explain to the nation very clearly: that everything is normal and progressing as can be expected. If anything crops up again, we will notify you immediately. However, we are confident that there will be no misunderstandings now. A sufficient explanation has been given, to everyone's understanding. If you are still in the dark after this, please feel free to come and seek further clarification from me. This murmuring discontent at Lobamba Royal Residence concerns specific people who are faced with the task of resolving the matter. It is none of your business to interfere in this matter.

We have been instructed to look forward to the coronation of Crown Prince Makhosetive as king of Swaziland. That is wherewe should pin our hopes! Makhosetive is currently attending school overseas. The elders will, in due course, bring him home for formal introduction to the nation. This is all that we, the Swazi people, are looking forward to, as I have already explained, my fellow countrymen. If there is anyone who is still confused about rumors in the royal enclosure, relax and sleep soundly, with the assurance that the elders of the nation are rectifying what was going awry. The royal family quickly noticed that the royal train was about to jump the track. They had to act promptly in the manner already explained to you. Had they hesitated I would probably be bringing you a different story from what you have just heard. We are grateful and appreciative to the elders for their timely and appropriate intervention.

That is all, my fellow countrymen and my royal princes and princesses! Thank you! Nkhosi! [Hail your majesty!]

Prime Minister Confirms Detention of Officials

MB261721 Mbabane Domestic Television Service in siSwati 1630 GMT 26 Aug 83

[Text] Prime Minister Prince Bhekimpi today announced that 28 October will be the day elections are held in the country. Making this announcement Prince Bhekimpi asked all the leaders of the tinkundla [constituencies] to enlighten their subjects of the imminent elections. He said these elections will follow the same procedures as the 1978 tinkundla elections.

Asked about the recent detentions, the prime minister confirmed the imprisonment of Prince Sulumlomo and Prince Thunduluka, who are said to have been arrested by police and held at Matsapa prison under the 60-day detention law. He also said it was true that the reed dance will not be held this year, as announced by the chief of Lobamba, Chief Vusumuzi Bhembhe.

Referring back to the elections the prime minister also said that MP's will be summoned for a session before parliament is dissolved in preparation for the elections. When asked why the princes have been detained, he said that it is true that they are being held for security reasons, but he did not elaborate on the matter. The prime minister said the country will be told next week whether the 28th is still a holiday. [sentence as heard] He was responding thus to a question from our reporter concerning the announcement of the postponement of this year's reed dance.